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Movies pg 22

Persia gets its game on

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Downtown **Outlaw**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oskar Wilband, 4, explores Outlaw, one of the greatest animals to perform at the Calgary Stampede, now captured in a larger-than-life bronze statue, at its unveiling in Calgary Thursday. The bull was recreated by artist Richard Loffler and placed in the heart of Calgary's downtown business section.

Teens leaving city to pass driver's test

Rural areas have greater success rate 'without a doubt': Examiner

PETER MCCARTNEY
for Metro Calgary

Your first drive is one you'll remember, and for many teen Calgarians that drive is the way home from rural Alberta, where it appears to be much easier to pass a road test.

Calgarian Anna Gunn, 16, is opting to take her next road test in Turner Valley after two unsuccessful attempts in the city, because friends have told her it's easier.

Gunn said a busy city and more obstacles led to her failure. She said she wouldn't have run into these difficulties on the sleepy country roads.

"It was really stressful. I'm not used to having so many things going on," said Gunn.

Katie Baker, who turns 16 in a few weeks, has also discussed with friends where it might be easiest to take the road test.

It turns out they're right, it is easier to take a test in small-town Alberta, according to Jim, an examiner with Certified Driver's Testing, who didn't want his last name released.

"Without a doubt (small towns) have a higher pass rate," said Jim. "The more challenges within the area, the lower the pass rate."

He claimed Calgary has a pass rate of around 60 per cent, while Mike Vikse in Crossfield said they pass well more than 80 per cent.

Jim can't argue with the teens' logic.

"A wise person would go out to a small community to do their road test," he said. "If you're struggling to pass a test in Calgary, then go out to Turner Valley or High River, there's less obstacles out there."

Heather Kaszuba from Alberta Transportation said the province standardizes minimum components for road tests, but she couldn't speculate on how an individual might respond to conditions.

65 guinea pig deaths blamed on poison

VALLEY ZOO Employees made a grisly discovery in the guinea pig pen at the Valley Zoo in Edmonton Wednesday morning.

Sixty-five guinea pigs were found dead in their pen from what zoo officials are calling a deliberate poisoning.

"This is a very serious matter and while the cause of death is still being determined, the fact that many of these died almost simultaneously is suspicious," said Dean Treichel, the zoo's operations supervisor.

"We believe the animals died after eating poisoned oranges that were placed in the animals' enclosure."

Treichel said the animals were checked in the evening, as per zoo protocol, and were all still alive at that time.

"When the animals were checked the following morning, 64 were dead and eight were alive," he said.

"One of the eight passed away later in the morning, leaving behind seven of the animals."

Zoo employees called police shortly after making the discovery.

"Toxicology tests are being done and they'll take a while to complete," said Patrycia Thenu, a police spokesperson.

The maximum charge in a case like this would be cruelty to animals and possibly trespassing or break and entering, said police.

ANDREAS MORSE/
METRO CANADA

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Local

Calgary hosting Outdoor Classic

Hockey Night in Canada confirmed Thursday night that the Montreal Canadiens will travel to McMahon Stadium in Calgary in February to battle the Flames for the NHL Outdoor Classic, CBC News Online reports. Pittsburgh's Heinz Field will play host to the New Year's Day game next January between the hometown Penguins and the Washington Capitals. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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News in brief

TIPS Calgary Police Service wants to thank the public after they arrested three men in separate incidents. On Wednesday, Calgarian Jason Paul Kereluik was arrested for two break and enter warrants and Troy Lee Gaudry was arrested for allegedly robbing a pharmacy. Duong Huynh Cao was arrested Thursday for 11 charges regarding confinement of a 57-year old woman.

BUST Seven pounds of marijuana were found in a vehicle after a man was caught speeding on the QE2 near Balzac Saturday. Michael George Fedun of Yorkton, Sask., allegedly tried to evade police at first, but stopped on Highway 566 where he was allegedly found with $11,200 worth of marijuana. He was charged with possession for purposes of trafficking, trafficking, and flight from police. METRO CALGARY

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CalgaryTweets

@rozzielee After camping in the rain ovr may long... I really don't mind this weather bec 1. I'm indoors 2. in a car 3. yard needs the moisture :)

@amandashaelyn I need a poncho before I drown in your rain #yyc.

@whoismich its too damn cold outside in the #yyc right now... i plan on staying wrapped in a blanket on the couch watching season 4 of SATC all night!

@DeanUdsen BP wants Twitter to shut down a fake account mocking the company. Twitter wants BP to shut down the oil leak that's ruining the ocean #yyc

Tough drilling gets a boost

Province rolls out royalty scheme aimed at 'unconventional' wells

Alberta government announced a new royalty incentive program Thursday aimed at encouraging energy companies to drill technically challenging wells in the province.

"This initiative ... offers the potential for decades of employment and community benefits."
Energy Minister Ron Liepert

Under the new rules, shale gas, coalbed methane and horizontal oil and gas wells will have an initial maximum five per cent royalty rate as of May 1, although that is to be reviewed in 2014.

"This initiative to unlock Alberta's unconventional resources offers the potential for decades of employment and community benefits," said Energy Minister Ron Liepert.

"The final adjustments to royalty formulas will help industry make important investment decisions for the fall and winter drilling season and maintain Alberta as a competitive jurisdiction for investment."

For shale and coalbed methane, the lower rate would last for the first 36 months of production, whereas horizontal gas wells would pay that rate for 18 months of production.

For horizontal oil wells, the length of time wells are eligible for the five per cent rate depends on well depth.

The province has also fleshed out how its new lower royalty rates on conventional oil and gas wells, announced in March, will be calculated.

The province's royalty take will still rise in tandem with higher commodity prices, but at a much more subdued rate than they would have under the previous regime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less-invasive form of heart surgery coming to Calgary

ANDREAS MORSE
Metro Canada

HEALTH Heart patients who can't handle invasive treatments have new hope thanks to a revolutionary procedure at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.

It's a treatment that will soon be available in Calgary.

Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) is an innovative method for replacing diseased aortic valves, which allows doctors to deliver the same care that surgeons give through open-heart surgery but in a less invasive manner.

"Up until very recently, patients that were in the category of very high risk or inoperable, really had no option," said Dr. Rob Welsh, director of adult cardiac catheterization laboratory at the Mazankowski.

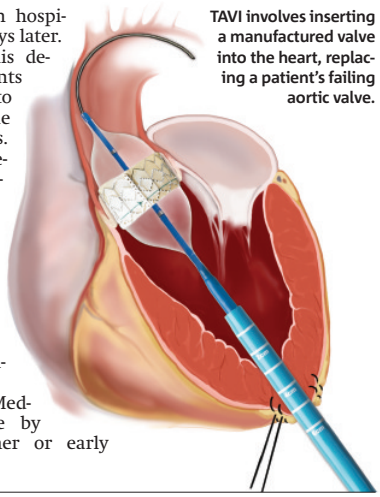
Alex Shapka was the first Albertan to go through the procedure. "All I wanted was to be better," said the 78-year-old Shapka.

"So when they said there was a different way of doing it, I agreed as long as it worked. It did, and I'm glad that it did."

Shapka had the surgery on May 10 and was released from hospital three days later.

"With this device, patients are ready to go home within days. It can be really revolutionary."

A cardiac team is expected to begin performing the procedure at Calgary's Foothills Medical Centre by late summer or early fall.



TAVI involves inserting a manufactured valve into the heart, replacing a patient's failing aortic valve.

Authorities seek to lock up SE home over drug seizures

KATIE TURNER
for Metro Calgary

"We hope that this is just one piece of the puzzle when it comes to shutting down this house for good."
Staff Sgt. Mark Hatchette

DRUGS Less than two weeks after the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods unit shut down a known drug house, they are looking to close the doors on another southeast home.

Around 8 p.m. on Wednesday, police searched a home on Foritana Road SE and seized more than $1,000 of cocaine, a digital scale, $670 in cash and nearly 50 grams of marijuana, according to Staff Sgt. Mark Hatchette.

They arrested one man and seized his three small children from the home. Hatchette said the children have since been placed in the custody of social services.

SCAN is now looking to seize the residence, said Hatchette.

"We hope that this is just one piece of the puzzle when it comes to shutting down this house for good."

Mount Royal professor signs on for mayoral race

POLITICS One more Calgarian has entered the mayoral race, as Mount Royal professor Naheed Nenshi launched his bid for mayor.

"Despite the fact that we have so many candidates, we're missing a candidate who could really articulate the kind of change we need in the city," said Nenshi.

He said city council is being crippled by extreme partisanship and dysfunction, and mustn't be constrained by past methods.

Nenshi

Nenshi said he envisions attracting and retaining world class talent to the city— both in times of bust and boom.

He also sees accountability being a real issue in the 2010 municipal election.

"Citizens no longer see the relationship between the taxes they pay and the services they receive," said Nenshi.

He highlights a new $500 million wastewater treatment plant as symbolic of the city's growth mismanagement. "We wouldn't have needed that plant so urgently if we hadn't grown in unmitigated urban sprawl."

PETER MCCARTNEY/
FOR METRO CALGARY

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Blogs TFC keeper Stefan Frei and Whitecaps play-by-play man Peter Schaad join It's Called Football

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Alternate scenes filmed to keep spoilers at bay
To keep filming on Sex and the City 2 top secret, alternate scenes were filmed to keep spoiler alerts at bay. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SHELBY BORYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

From left: Becky Sturge, Jessica McNutt, Katie Gallupe and Ashley Drysdale work together at the Market Mall Moxie's and are just about the biggest Sex and the City fans alive. All had their tickets for yesterday's premiere of the sequel well in advance.

It's ladies' night

It's safe to call the Sex and the City movie franchise a phenomenon when bars run out of mix for Cosmos

JESSICA PICHE
for Metro Calgary

Ladies are preparing to drink bars dry in celebration of the Fabulous Four's return in style around Calgary this weekend.

The highly anticipated Sex and the City 2 movie was released to sold-out theatres yesterday. The cult classic sequel has Calgarians of all demographics interested.

According to Joey's Chinook manager Peter-Paul Van Besouw, the first SATC film made cosmos so popular, they ran out of cranberry juice when it showed. "We definitely learned our lesson," he said. "We've doubled our liquor order until (interest) dies down."

Sarah Jessica Parker stars in Sex and the City 2.

Local hair stylist and world-renowned drag queen Deva Dave Richards is an expert on the infamous SATC cocktail.

"I love my cosmo strong, pink, smooth and fluffy to the palette," he said. "The perfect balance of sweetness and I am giddy for hours."

Beyond the surface level fun, SATC shows the importance of women friendships, said a local clinical therapist, name withheld for confidentiality purposes. "It's a modern day take on traditional bonding," she said.

"It's about women being strong together instead of being in competition."

The appeal of SATC is a mystery to many men.

"I don't know anything about it," said Adam Geml, marketing and public relations for Dobson's Pub.

However, he does understands the hype.

"If the roles were reversed and it was a movie with a cult following among men, we would be just as excited.

"But we wouldn't dress up."

Events around Calgary

- Diva Fridays: SATC Party Stiletto giveaways, portion of every cosmo purchased goes towards Alberta Brest Cancer Foundation
- Dobson's: SATC Party, Saturday. $25 ticket includes cosmo, appetizers, swag bag, prizes and entertainment
- Roadhouse: SATC Weekend Ladies get no line no cover all night with a SATC ticket stub

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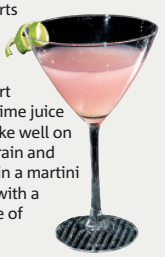

Laundry room fire doused
Fire crews responded to 18 Avenue and 39 Street SE Thursday afternoon, though nobody was hurt. A man living in the upstairs unit called 911 after seeing smoke. Fire crews put out the blaze in a laundry room of the downstairs unit. METRO CALGARY

Trio of wild horses born at Calgary Zoo

BREEDING Three new additions are being welcomed at the Calgary Zoo.

The zoo announced Thursday that three Asian Wild Horses — or Przewalski's horses — were born at the Calgary Zoo's endangered species breeding facility, the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre (DWCC). Calgarians' help will be sought to name the two fillies and one colt, who, with their arrival, expanded the zoo's herd from eight to 11.

It's the first time since 1994 Asian Wild Horse foals have been born at the Calgary Zoo.

"While these foals will not likely be re-introduced to the wild, they represent the next generation for an aging captive population," said Bob Peel, curator for the DWCC.

Details on a naming contest will be released in the future. METRO CALGARY

Police seek fourth suspect in beating, theft

CHARGES Police have arrested three of four suspects accused of invading a southeast home, beating the resident and stealing weapons.

On May 22, the four men bound and assaulted a male victim using brass knuckles and stole a number of weapons including a hatchet.

Three suspects were later arrested and now face a total of 16 charges.

"We don't have a name of the fourth person yet," said Staff Sgt. Mark Hatchette. "We have a lot of leads that we're following up."

All of the weapons were recovered and the victim received minor injuries but did not require hospitalization.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO CALGARY

Will mayoral race get out voters?

'Noisy' election doesn't always engage public, says prof

KATIE TURNER
for Metro Calgary

With eight candidates already running for the city's top spot and nearly five months until the election, the race for Calgary's mayor is heating up.

Calgarian Selina Renfrow, 25, said that she has never voted in a civic election because she didn't think there was enough competition but is planning on hitting the polling station this year.

Kent Hehr

"Even though there was a ton of candidates (in 2007) ... you kind of knew right off that Dave was going to win again," she said.

"I think (this election) is much better than the last civic election when everyone was pretty much unknown."

While this race boasts more high-profile contenders such as MLA Kent Hehr and current Calgary alderman Joe Connelly, chair of the department of political science at Mount Royal University Bruce Foster, said that doesn't necessarily mean an increase in voter turnout.

"It does have the virtue of being kind of a fresh start election with Bronconnier retiring," explained Foster, "but when you get up into that many candidates it doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to have an engaged public, it just means it becomes noisier."

Foster said it's too early to tell whether this election will generate enough buzz to get people out to the polls.

"Generally speaking if you have that many candidates ... with the exception of their own circle of supporter and friends, you're not likely going to see that big of a rise in numbers," he said.

Calgarians will go to the polls Oct. 18.

Beer 'knowledge' can go a long way

JESSICA PICHE
for Metro Calgary

BEERFEST If beer is more your style than Manolo Blahniks, Beerfest should be on your radar this weekend.

More than 10,000 people are expected to attend the sixth annual Calgary International Beerfest at the upper Big Four building Friday and Saturday.

The event is intended to give people a taste of a large array of beers from across the globe. "A little knowledge will open you up to a lot of new stuff," said Beerfest president and CEO Bill Robinson.

Women Only seminars will kick off both days.

"Traditionally, women brewed beer," said Grizzly Paw Brew Master Michele Lowney. "Here, girls are more willing to try different types and ask questions."

Patrons will also learn how to judge a beer similar to how wine is tasted. Distinct profiles mean that a beer can be paired with certain foods to bring out its full flavour.

Beyond the drinking, Beerfest is a social event with a great atmosphere, said Robinson.

"I've even had people come back on their wedding anniversaries who've met here."

Global brews

- 200 different brews from over 25 countries will be available for tasting. Eighteen restaurants will also be on site.

JESSICA PICHE/FOR METRO CALGARY

Bartender Rocky Judge shows off samples of first-time Beerfest attendee Original Joe's three house brews. Beerfest runs Friday and Saturday.

'Important straights come to Fairy Tales,' says film fest director

FLICKS Over the next week Calgarians can relax, kick off their heels, and take in a movie at the Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival, which runs until June 4.

The festival will showcase films and other visual arts surrounding issues affecting the GLBTQ community.

"Don't be fooled or frightened by the GLBTQ acronym, Fairy Tales is for everyone," said programming director Jessica Dollard. She encourages people especially to come to Wednesday's two-for-one "Bring a Straight Night," where they will be screening Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride, which takes a look at Pride festivals globally.

"I think it's important straights come to Fairy Tales because the issues we're talking about are universal," said Dollard.

For more information, visit fairytalesfilmfest.com.

PETER MCCARTNEY/
FOR METRO CALGARY

Secondary suite policy on agenda

CITY COUNCIL Policy surrounding the building of secondary suites in established Calgary communities is officially on the docket for council's upcoming meeting.

Ald. Ric McIver has submitted a notice of motion asking council to create a more definitive policy around the location and development of secondary suites.

"My motion, I hope, will involve policy around how close together or far apart (secondary suites) are in established communities."

McIver said concern has come from community associations and residents about the number of secondary suites in one area.

"I'm hoping that we will get a lot more public support for putting them in to individual communities when hopefully people know that there won't be five or six in a row that would change the character of the community," he said.

Ald. Gord Lowe and Ald. Jim Stevenson have signed on to the motion, which will be discussed by council June 7.

"If we get it right there's, I think, potential for adding a lot of secondary suites with public support," said McIver.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO CALGARY

News in brief

HIGH RISK Calgary police have arrested and charged a high risk offender with breaking conditions of his release. Michael Edward Lopatriello, 44, was released with a public warning that he had a history of sexually assaulting young males. March 9 he allegedly broke a peace bond by walking through a playground. May 23, police allegedly found him socializing with young people, and not at his curfew residence, resulting in two other charges. METRO CALGARY

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New poll shows Tories pulling away from Liberals

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are opening a sizable gap over the Liberals, a new poll suggests. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey gives the Conservatives a nine-point lead nationally, with the support of 36 per cent of decided respondents, compared with 27 per cent for the Liberals. The NDP was at 16 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Latimer calls the tune

Robert Latimer, the Saskatchewan farmer convicted of killing his disabled daughter, has inspired a song by the legendary Ozzy Osbourne, left. Called Latimer's Mercy, it's included on the rocker's upcoming Scream CD. Latimer is serving a life sentence for second-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rivals circling as iPad arrives

Not sure whether you need or can afford one of Apple's iPad tablet computers? Well, you may not have to wait long for cheaper alternatives to hit the market.

About two months after its U.S. release, the iPad was finally to land in Canada Friday with a range of models priced between $549 and $879.

It's an impressive tech toy and owns the market. For now.

"I have a feeling (the tablet market) is probably going to evolve very quickly," said Emily Taylor, an analyst with IDC Canada.

"I anticipate the offerings will be coming out pretty fast and furious for the remainder of 2010 and into 2011."

Although Apple CEO Steve Jobs has suggested the iPad will eliminate the need for laptops, many users have said it's not quite a replacement for a real computer. The iPad's web browser doesn't handle video, lacks a webcam and doesn't allow multitasking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twenty-somethings hit by recession learn about personal finance the hard way.

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MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The iPad is shown after it was unveiled at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Consumers who aren't quite sure whether they need or can afford one of Apple's iPad tablet computers may not have to wait long for cheaper alternatives to hit the market.

Message to Mexico: Visas stay for now

TRAVEL It will be a year or more before Canada can lift its controversial visa requirement for Mexican visitors, says Immigration Minister Jason Kenney.

Kenney echoed visiting Mexican President Felipe Calderon in saying he regrets the visa decision, but he stressed it will remain in place until Canada's flawed refugee system is fixed.

The Mexican leader addressed the visa issue during a speech to Parliament Thursday, confronting a source of friction between the two countries. Both sides took pains to play down the rift.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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* Terms of service apply. Visit yak.ca.

Police pose as 12-year-olds in Internet porn probe

Police say five people were arrested in Durham Region near Toronto in an investigation into the luring of children and exchanging child pornography over the Internet. Officers used a variety of investigative techniques, including posing as 12- to 14-year-old girls in chat rooms on the Internet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mountie reveals plight of Haiti's sex slaves

GETTY IMAGES

As a Mountie returned to Canada with stories of child sex slaves, turbulence continued in Haiti. Here, protesters in Port-au-Prince Thursday demand the resignation of President René Préval.

Smugglers have been spiriting Haitian quake orphans out of the country to become sex slaves in the Dominican Republic, authorities say.

A Mountie just back from Haiti says authorities have uncovered "safe houses," where predators hide children before whisking them over the border.

The perpetrators pose as aid workers or even work for legitimate charities, specifically to gain access to children, said RCMP Sgt. Lana Prosper.

Investigators suspect some of those preying on children in Haiti also peddled child-sex videos found online from Sri Lanka and Thailand.

It's just a matter of time before videos of young Haitian quake victims surface, said Prosper, home from a month in Haiti.

"Since we've been there and since we've been back, there have been groups of children found at the border in so-called safe houses," she said.

"People put children into these homes and then wait till darkness to get them across the border. "

Prosper says these people are "pure evil." They inflict pain and humiliation, damaging innocent minds.

Prosper's team helped police protect children after the Jan. 12 earthquake, which killed 230,000 people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sound cannons set for summit

PROTEST The addition of sound cannons to the arsenal of security forces managing G20 protests comes as no surprise to groups planning to demonstrate in Toronto at next month's summit.

They say it's just one more signal amid an unprecedented security operation that dissenting voices are being muzzled.

"We were expecting the use of sound cannons, sound grenades, Tasers, tear gas — they've been used in the past against Canadian protesters," said Sharmeen Khan, spokesperson for the Toronto Community Mobilization Network.

"We definitely are concerned that this will scare people away."

The sound cannons emit ear-piercing and hearing-damaging alerts that can be heard 1.5 kilometres away.

Formally known as long-range acoustical devices, they can also be used to broadcast pre-recorded and other messages.

"We definitely are concerned this will scare people away."
Sharmeen Khan, Toronto Community Mobilization Network

"It will allow our officers to speak to the crowd over and above chanting, yelling, screaming — noise that is most commonly part of protests," said Toronto police spokesperson Const. Wendy Drummond.

The Council of Canadians said it would give away earplugs during the G20 to protect people's hearing.

"Saying a sound cannon is a tool for communications is like saying waterboarding isn't torture," said spokesperson Mark Calzavara. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Chicken pox risk in Toronto

Toronto Public Health says 30 women who attended a prenatal nutrition class earlier this week have been exposed to chicken pox. Chicken pox poses a serious risk of complications to pregnant women, and can cause severe complications to the fetus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study links income, heart risk

Canadians who live in low-income neighbourhoods are more likely to have a heart attack than their wealthier counterparts, a new report indicates.

But in terms of how they fare when they get to hospital, their quality of care appears to be about the same, says the report released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

"This is data to support providing specific strategies to help at-risk and disadvantaged populations," said Toronto cardiologist Dr. Beth Abramson, a spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"Canadians can't rely on a good in-hospital healthcare system to prevent the heart disease in the first place ... I think we'll be misled if we think that equal access to health care means equal access to good health."

Almost 67,000 Canadians landed in hospital due to a heart attack in 2008-09.

A breakdown of five neighbourhood income levels found that those in the least-affluent areas were 37 per cent more likely to have a heart attack than those in the most-affluent districts.

Heart attack rates were at a high of 347 per 100,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador and a low of 169 per 100,000 in British Columbia, after population age differences were taken into account.

"B.C., who seems to be doing relatively well, has had its prevention strategy ... for many years, and that may help explain some of the differences we're seeing," Abramson noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa **Honouring Lang**

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The parents of Calgary Herald reporter Michelle Lang, Cassandra and Arthur Lang, are honoured during the Michener awards for journalism at Rideau Hall on Thursday. Michelle Lang — killed while reporting in Afghanistan on Dec. 30, 2009 — received the Michener-Baxter Special award.

Mayors want new deal with Ottawa

CITIES Canada's big city mayors say it shouldn't take an economic crisis to get the fiscal help they need from the federal government.

With federal stimulus spending coming to an end, the mayors are calling on the Harper government to strike a new partnership between all levels of government.

Toronto Mayor David Miller says if Ottawa can find $1 billion for G20 security it can find money for transit.

His Montreal counterpart, Gerald Tremblay, says municipalities turned federal economic stimulus dollars into jobs — an example of the type of co-operation needed to build strong cities.

The comments come after a meeting in Toronto yesterday that was expected to set the tone for the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which starts Friday.

The mayors say a new partnership is needed to fight issues such as traffic gridlock, homelessness, climate change and crumbling infrastructure.

They also say responsibilities should be clearly defined over who should pay for programs because the current system is a patchwork.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PARLIAMENT The Liberals shielded one of their own Thursday from answering questions about alleged lobbying at the same committee where they have grilled former Tory MP Rahim Jaffer over similar accusations. Liberal MP Derek Lee showed up at the government operations committee ostensibly to answer questions about his role at a Toronto law firm. But Lee, an expert in Commons procedure, immediately argued that this was the wrong committee to tackle the issue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oklahoma governor vetoes abortion limitation bill
Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry has vetoed an abortion bill that would limit coverage by private insurers.
The bill includes exceptions for cases of rape, incest or to prevent the death of the mother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Student not entitled to private room

A German court says that a Berlin high school doesn't have to provide a 16-year-old Muslim student with a private room in which to pray during school hours. The decision Thursday by a Berlin administrative court overturned a lower court's ruling last year that granting a private room was necessary to guarantee the student's right to freedom of religion. But the higher court said that one pupil's rights could not be put before the good of the group as a whole. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama: 'I take responsibility'

President answers to criticism of response to worst oil spill in U.S. history

Criticism mounting, U.S. President Barack Obama vigorously defended his administration's response to the worst oil spill in the nation's history as he prepared for his second inspection tour of the battered Gulf Coast. While standing up for the effort so far, he frankly acknowledged he could have done better.

"I take responsibility. It is my job to make sure that everything is done to shut this down," Obama declared in a lengthy news conference at the White House on Thursday.

As he spoke, well owner BP struggled anew to plug the blown well that exploded five weeks ago, killing 11 workers and sending millions of gallons of polluting oil gushing out.

Obama's words marked a clear shift of emphasis for an administration that previously had said it was generally "in charge," but there were limits to what it could do — and that oil giant BP was responsible for stopping the flow and cleaning up the disastrous damage.

He also said he regretted not pushing BP sooner to release underwater video footage of the leak and not realizing that oil companies did not have "their act together when it came to worst case scenarios."

Though he said the government was giving the orders in the aftermath, he acknowledged that BP hasn't always done what officials have asked, for instance ignoring directions to fully explore less-toxic alternatives to the chemical dispersant being used now on the oil.

Asked about comparisons to the Bush administration's much-criticized handling of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath, he said that was for others to judge, but he insisted his administration has been active from the start.

"This has been our highest priority" since the rig exploded, he said, making the point repeatedly.

"My job right now is just to make sure everybody in the Gulf understands: This is what I wake up to in the morning, and this is what I go to bed at night thinking about. The spill."

Obama marked out half a dozen areas where he and his administration could have done better.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Offshore drilling restrictions

- Obama announced new steps to restrict drilling, including continuing a moratorium on drilling permits for six months, suspending planned exploratory drilling off the coasts of Alaska and Virginia and ordering a halt to 33 exploratory deep-water rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.

JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louisiana's Gov. Bobby Jindal points to oil on a beach where workers are building barriers to keep it from entering wetlands Thursday near Grand Isle, La.

BP resumes 'top kill' attempt to stem oil after delay

GULF OF MEXICO As BP laboured for a second day Thursday to choke off the leak at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, dire new government estimates showed the disaster has easily eclipsed the Exxon Valdez as the biggest oil spill in U.S. history.

The company announced late in the day that it had suspended shooting heavy drilling mud into the blown-out well 5,000 feet underwater around midnight Wednesday so it could assess how the effort was working and bring in more materials.

Thursday evening, BP PLC said it had resumed the pumping procedure known as a top kill. Officials said it could be late Friday or the weekend before the company knows if it has cut off the oil that has been flowing for five weeks.

BP insisted the top kill was progressing as planned, though the company acknowledged drilling mud was escaping from the broken pipe along with the leaking crude.

"The fact that we had a bunch of mud going up the riser isn't ideal, but it's not necessarily indicative of a problem," said spokesman Tom Mueller.

Early Thursday, officials said the process was going well, but later in the day they announced pumping had been suspended 16 hours earlier. BP did not characterize the suspension as a setback, and Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute, said the move did not indicate the top kill had failed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The fact we had a bunch of mud going up the riser isn't ideal, but it's not necessarily indicative of a problem."
BP spokesman Tom Mueller

Bush doctrine not totally dead

WASHINGTON U.S. President Barack Obama's new national security strategy says armed conflict should be a last resort, but doesn't repudiate the Bush administration's doctrine of preemptive war or its call for the U.S. to go it alone in defending against foreign threats. The overarching goal of Obama's National Security Strategy, intended to guide U.S. military and diplomatic policy for years, is to eliminate the need for the U.S. to strike first or take unilateral action. In his first formal declaration of his national security strategy, Obama breaks with some of his predecessors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Train derailed by blast in India

RAILWAY A doctor says at least 30 people died when an overnight passenger train was derailed by suspected sabotage and then hit by another train in eastern India. Government officials say they suspect Maoist rebels sabotaged the train. An overnight passenger train was derailed by an explosion then hit by another train early Friday as it travelled through a rebel stronghold of eastern India, a railway official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Anti-whaling activist pleads guilty to trespassing
An anti-whaling activist who boarded a Japanese whaling ship as part of a protest in February pleaded guilty Thursday to charges including trespassing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tight pants banned

Indonesian district cracks down on Muslim women's dress

Authorities in a devoutly Islamic district of Indonesia's Aceh province have distributed 20,000 long skirts and prohibited shops from selling tight dresses as a regulation banning Muslim women from wearing revealing clothing took effect Thursday.

Sharia police officers stop a woman Thursday who was wearing pants at a checkpoint in Pasi Jambu, Indonesia.

The long skirts are to be given to Muslim women caught violating the dress code during a two-month campaign to enforce the regulation, said Ramli Mansur, head of West Aceh district.

Islamic police will determine whether a woman's clothing violates the dress code, he said.

During raids Thursday, Islamic police caught 18 women travelling on motorbikes who were wearing traditional headscarves but were also dressed in jeans. Each woman was given a long skirt and her pants were confiscated. They were released from police custody after giving their identities and receiving advice from Islamic preachers.

"I am not wearing sexy outfits, but they caught me like a terrorist only because of my jeans," said Imma, a 40-year-old housewife who uses only one name. She argued that wearing jeans is more comfortable when she travels by motorbike.

Motorbikes are commonly used by both men and women in Indonesia.

"The rule applies only to Muslim residents in West Aceh," Mansur told The Associated Press. "We don't enforce it for non-Muslims, but are asking them to respect us."

He said any shopkeepers caught violating restrictions on selling short skirts and jeans would face a revocation of their business licenses.

No merchants have been seen displaying jeans or tight clothing in stores in West Aceh district in recent weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tobacco companies targeting young women, report claims

SMOKING With half of all men in some developing countries already hooked on cigarettes, the tobacco industry is now courting lucrative new customers — young women, a report said Thursday. About 80 per cent of the world's estimated one billion smokers are men, but more women are picking up the habit in some countries as flavoured products and glossy feminine packaging cater to them. Nationwide surveys in Bangladesh, Thailand and Uruguay found that females aged 15 to 24 were more aware of tobacco marketing than older women, suggesting that advertising is directed at them.

The data were the first batch to be analyzed from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, a large sampling of 14 developing countries that hopes to provide a clearer picture of how tobacco is used and promoted. It was the first standardized comparison of countries on tobacco.

The results published Thursday in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, a publication of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, focus on gender differences regarding use and attitudes toward tobacco.

"Tobacco companies target women and girls with aggressive and seductive advertising that exploits ideas of independence, emancipation, sex appeal, slimness, glamour and beauty," Johanna Birckmayer, director of international research at the U.S.-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, wrote in an email. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHO: Women smokers to double

- The World Health Organization has estimated that the rate of female smokers worldwide will double by 2025, from nine per cent in 2007. The current male smoking rate of about 40 per cent has peaked and is starting to decline. Increases among female smokers have been documented in a number of countries, including India, Singapore, the Ukraine and Russia, said a WHO spokesman.

Hunt for Jamaican drug lord leaves 73 dead

KINGSTON Jamaican police say at least 73 people have died as security forces hunt for a reputed drug lord wanted by the United States. Deputy police chief Glenmore Hinds says all the deaths have occurred as police raided the Tivoli Gardens stronghold of Christopher Coke. Information Minister Daryl Vaz said Thursday that officials are trying to identify the victims and the government will launch investigations into all police actions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Congolese rebels flouting sanctions: UN
Rebel groups in eastern Congo are illegally imposing taxes on trucks and pedestrians and receiving local, regional and international support in violation of UN sanctions, UN experts said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congress votes to end 'don't ask, don't tell'

The House of Representatives delivered a victory to U.S. President Barack Obama and gay rights groups Thursday by approving a proposal to repeal the law that allows gays to serve in the military only if they don't disclose their sexual orientation.

The 234-194 vote to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy reflected a view among many in Congress that America was ready for a military in which gays and straights can stand side by side in the trenches.

"I know that our military draws its strength on the integrity of our unified force, and current law challenges this integrity by creating two realities within the ranks," Democratic Rep. Susan Davis.

Republicans, who voted overwhelmingly against it, cited statements by some military leaders that they need more time to study how the change could affect the lives and readiness of service members.

"This is the beginning of the end of a shameful ban on open service by lesbian and gay troops."
Joe Solmonese,
Human Rights Campaign

The House vote came just hours after the Senate Armed Services Committee took the same course and voted 16-12 in favour of repealing the 1993 law. In both cases the measure was offered as an amendment to a defence spending bill.

Obama and leading Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, had actively supported the repeal so gays could serve in the military without fear of being exposed and discharged.

"This is the beginning of the end of a shameful ban on open service by lesbian and gay troops that has weakened our national security," Joe Solmonese, president of Human Rights Campaign, a leading gay rights organization, said after the Senate panel's vote.

Democratic supporters stressed that the amendment was written so that the repeal wouldn't go into effect until after the Pentagon publishes in December the results of a survey on how service members and their families view the change, and until the president, the defence secretary and the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that the repeal won't affect the military's ability to fight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Netherlands **Election looms**

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Citizens will go to the polls June 9 in the Netherlands, a country that's been at the forefront of a Europe-wide crackdown on immigration and the debate over a perceived failure of Muslims to integrate over the past decade. But issues like banning burkas and citizenship classes for immigrants have been pushed aside in favour of debates over balancing the budget.

News in brief

TAINTED MILK A Hong Kong judge on Thursday rejected a lawsuit and claims for compensation by the parents of four Chinese children who were among thousands sickened two years ago by tainted milk powder. The children were among 300,000 sickened after consuming milk products contaminated with an industrial chemical. An adjudicator ruled that the case should be handled by mainland Chinese courts since the plaintiffs are from the mainland and their children were poisoned there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caste system antiquated: Bollywood star

INDIA Bollywood's biggest star has an answer ready if census workers ask about his caste: "Indian."

"My father never believed in caste, and neither do any of us," Amitabh Bachchan wrote in his obsessively followed blog.

Comments like Bachchan's are common in modern India, which prides itself on how it has transcended some of its most rigid traditions — and those beliefs are being heard more often as the government debates whether the national census should delve into caste.

But Joseph D'Souza doesn't believe such talk for a moment.

"There's a lot of lip service to saying, 'I'm an Indian first,' and 'I don't believe in caste,'" said D'Souza, a prominent advocate campaigner for low-caste Indians, who he says are still very much marginalized.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama man executed after three decades on death row
Alabama's longest serving death row inmate was executed by lethal injection for the 1976 kidnapping, rape and murder of a young convenience store clerk. Thomas Whisenhant died Thursday evening at Holman prison. The 63-year-old inmate filed no stay requests as the execution drew near Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Networking site' for child porn busted

U.S. federal prosecutors say they are working with police in several countries to investigate suspects in a child pornography "social networking site" that at one point had more than 1,000 members trading explicit images.

U.S. authorities announced Wednesday that they had broken up the international online child porn site, saying more than 50 people had been arrested in more than 50 states since the 2008 start of the investigation.

They said they are also seeking the extradition of several suspects from overseas, including the alleged ringleader, Delwyn Savigar, who is serving a 14-year prison term in England for sexually assaulting three underage girls.

Savigar created and ran a password-protected website from which members could access collections of sexual images, share their fantasies about having sex with children and give advice to each other about building collections without getting caught, assistant U.S. attorney Steven D. DeBrota said. "This was a social networking site, really," he said.

"This is the largest crimes against children case brought anywhere by anyone."
Steven D. DeBrota

To join, a person had to be sponsored by a member and voted on by other members, DeBrota said. "This is the largest crimes against children case brought anywhere by anyone," DeBrota said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy **Friendly meeting with industrialists**

RICCARDO DE LUCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, left, kisses Emma Marcegaglia, president of the Italian industrialists association, after speaking at their assembly Thursday in Rome. Italy's industrial lobby backed the government's proposed 24-billion euro in budget cuts Thursday but warned that real structural intervention was needed to rein in the country's high debt. During his speech Berlusconi offered Marcegaglia the job of industry minister.

News in brief

FLIGHT A woman who fell asleep on a United Express flight to Philadelphia says she woke up and was shocked to find she was alone on the plane. Ginger McGuire said no one had awakened her when the plane landed more than three hours earlier. She said she paced the aisle for about 15 minutes Tuesday until police opened the door. "Waking up to an empty airplane and not being able to get out — it was very horrifying," McGuire, 36, told reporters Thursday as her lawyer announced a lawsuit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climber, 13, plans to scale world's sixth highest peak

CLIMBING The 13-year-old American boy who became the youngest person to climb Mount Everest announced plans Thursday for an ascent of Mount Cho Oyu, the world's sixth highest peak.

Jordan Romero, from Big Bear, Calif., told reporters Thursday in Kathmandu that he plans to climb the 8,201-metre peak during the autumn climbing season. Cho Oyu straddles the Nepal-China border.

Nepal prohibits people under the age of 16 from climbing high mountain peaks, but there is no such restriction in China. Romero scaled the 8,850-metre Mount Everest last weekend from the northern side of the peak in China. He arrived in Nepal Wednesday.

Romero is on a quest to climb the highest mountain on each of the seven continents.

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Comment

2 cents on Nickelback

InDefenceOf

It's easy to make fun of something that exists primarily for our entertainment and mockery. Here in Alberta perhaps the easiest target is Nickelback. Actually, it's more likely Ralph Klein, but coming in a strong second is Nickelback. The rockers are so fun to tease because, well, first of all, they hail from Hanna. From there, the jokes pretty much write themselves.

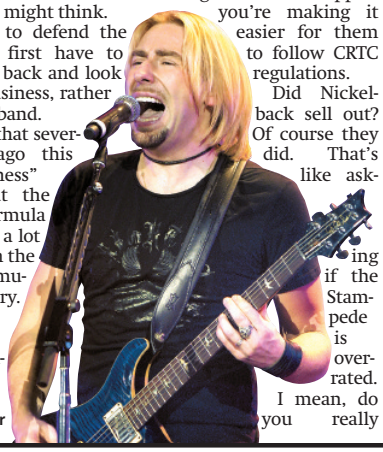
What's always struck me as interesting about the rock group is that it is easily Canada's most popular band, but you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone who admits to actually owning one of the band's CDs. Even if you are lucky enough to find someone who does, chances are they won't be announcing it with great enthusiasm. They are 2010's equivalent of New Kids On The Block.

But like I said, it's easy to make fun of Nickelback. The hard part would be defending them.

Turns out, it is not as hard as you might think.

In order to defend the band, you first have to take a step back and look at it as a business, rather than just a band.

Imagine that several years ago this "band/business" figured out the perfect formula for making a lot of money in the struggling music industry. Disguise yourselves as a rough-sounding (and looking) rock band, but produce pop-radio friendly songs. You'll eventually learn that the songs can really be the same song over and over again, just sung with slightly different lyrics. Your core fan base will rock out to your music, thinking it is "sticking it to the man," while station managers are happier you're making it easier for them to follow CRTC regulations.


Chad Kroeger

Did Nickelback sell out? Of course they did. That's like asking if the Stampede is overrated. I mean, do you really think Chad Kroeger lies down beside his hair-straightener every night and thinks he produces quality rock music? No, of course not. But when it comes to being a strong businessman, not even Brett Wilson can compete.

Interestingly enough, you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone in the media that has anything personally bad to say about the band. By all accounts Nickelback are nice, hard-working and funny guys, who seem to be killing their critics with kindness.

When Nickelback descends upon Calgary Monday, they'll have already sold millions of albums and regularly played sold-out stadiums.

So complain and whine about them all you want — thanks to pyrotechnics, no one will hear you.

Mike Morrison writes daily about all things Canadian entertainment on the award-winning Mike's Bloggity Blog.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Teach children about race early: Study

InStep

CNN recently conducted a pilot study to determine young children's attitude toward race, which raised many eyebrows. The surprising, yet critical findings pointed to a need for parents everywhere to teach children about values and self-esteem much earlier than expected.

To conduct the pilot study, CNN hired consultant Margaret Beale Spencer — a renowned child psychologist and researcher from the University of Chicago. The pictures of caricature dolls were juxtaposed in front of each child who participated in the study. The dolls were identical except for one feature: The colour of their skin, which ranged from very light to very dark.

More than 130 children from eight schools were asked questions about who the smart child was and who the mean child was. The study showed an overwhelming bias in favour of the white dolls among the white children in the study. Surprisingly, the same bias — though not nearly as strong — showed up in the black children. In other words, the darkest doll was most often identified as the "mean" and "dumb" child, while the lightest doll was identified as the nicest child and smartest one.

One white mother was in tears as she watched her five-year-old daughter say the "white child is good because 'I think she looks like me,'" and said the black child is ugly because "she's a lot darker." The mom said she has never discussed race with her child.

The CNN study drew thousands of comments afterwards, including from a broad spectrum of professionals. The consensus was that it is necessary to teach children about race issues during their toddler years, not leave them to come to their own conclusions, which evidently they do, based on whatever experiences they encounter.

Many pointed fingers at media stereotypes; this argument can go on indefinitely. Although dialogue can lead to constructive change, more importantly the test reveals the expeditious rate young children absorb information, process it themselves, and the urgent necessity for parental involvement on teaching children values and healthy self-esteem before conditioning occurs.

The implications of the CNN race study are critical if we want our children to grow up with healthy self-esteem, regardless of colour. This can expand to any endowment like size and height. We all know how body image affects our children, even to the point of eating disorders. Given the implications of the CNN study, parental teaching overall is paramount from an early age.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

Worth mentioning

Financial toll also tough for breast cancer survivors

The toll of breast cancer extends beyond its effect on a person's physical and psychological health, says a new report that outlines the substantial financial burden the disease places on the women and men who develop it.

The study, commissioned by the survivor group the Canadian Breast Cancer Network, explores a side of breast cancer few think about unless they or a loved one has dealt with the diagnosis.

$12K

Of the respondents, 98 per cent were women and 97 per cent were working age — between the ages of 18 and 64 — when they were diagnosed with breast cancer. Four out of five said they and their families took a financial hit, sometimes long term. On average, annual family income dropped by about $12,000.

Based on a survey of 446 breast cancer survivors, it shows 44 per cent drained their savings and another 27 per cent had to borrow money to cover treatment costs. The distressing financial picture was based on information gathered from respondents to an online survey. Polling firm Pollara invited people from across the country who have had a breast cancer diagnosis in the past five years to take part.

A variety of items accounted for the financial impact, not least of which was lost wages. But some survivors reported high expenses for drugs, prosthetics and travel that were not covered by medicare and not fully reimbursed by extended health insurance coverage they had through their jobs. Others did not have extended health insurance at all.

The cost of hospital-based services — surgery, for instance — is covered by medicare. But the drugs breast cancer survivors take to stave off a recurrence may or may not be covered by provincial plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Apple finally beats Microsoft

Apple Inc.'s market capitalization ($222.4 billion US) has surpassed that of rival Microsoft Corp. ($220.6 billion US), making it the world's most valuable technology firm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Youth lead way in online privacy

What's that? A young college grad lecturing her elders about online privacy?

It might go against conventional wisdom, but a new report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project is adding fuel to the argument that young people are fast becoming the gurus of online reputation management, especially when it comes to social networking sites.

Among other things, the study found that they are most likely to limit personal information online — and the least likely to trust free online services ranging from Facebook to LinkedIn and MySpace.

The Pew study and a mounting body of new research is showing that the very generation accused of sharing too much information online is actually leading the pack in online privacy.

The Pew study found, for instance, that social networkers ages 18 to 29 were the most likely to change the privacy settings on their profiles to limit what they share with others online.

The percentage who did so was 71 per cent, compared with just 55 per cent of the 50- to 64-year-old bracket. Meanwhile, about two-thirds of all social networkers who were surveyed said they've tightened security settings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tablet fever: Even the One Laptop Per Child non-profit is ditching laptops for tablet

Scan this code for the story.

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Feds crack down on online insurance sales

REGULATIONS Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says federally regulated Canadian banks and trust companies will be banned from using their websites to promote insurance that can't be sold through regular branch offices. Flaherty says the so-called non-authorized insurance products will include life, property and casualty insurance.

Banks are already prohibited from advertising the non-authorized insurance products in their regular branch offices — although they are allowed to set up separate locations to sell that type of insurance. Flaherty said the measure to crack down on online advertising was made necessary by the evolving use of technology by banks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

LAWSUIT An Israeli university that holds rights to Albert Einstein's image is asking General Motors Co. to pay for putting the physics pioneer in a magazine ad. The Detroit automaker grafted the Nobel Prize-winning German scientist's head onto the body of a buff, shirtless man in a Nov. 30 ad in People magazine. Hebrew University of Jerusalem filed suit against GM earlier this month.

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Favre's decision to have surgery seen as good sign by Vikings

Brett Favre's recent decision to have surgery on his left ankle gave the Minnesota Vikings more reason to believe he'll be their quarterback again this season. He hasn't officially told the team he'll be back, but the vibe around the Vikings is strongly suggesting he will return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

World Cup sex OK: Team doc

Soccer and sex are just fine for the World Cup. That's the word from Argentina's team doctor who says players can have sex with their regular partners during the month-long tournament in South Africa. Dr. Donato Vallani said sex was a part of life. "The players can have sex with their wives and girlfriends during the World Cup," he said on Radio Del Plata. "Players are not Martians." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Six teams, six finals for Pronger, Hossa

Chris Pronger was just what the Philadelphia Flyers needed. Fearless and strong on the defensive end, he was a game-changer the Flyers hoped would make them a championship contender. They gave up two-first round picks in a trade to get him.

The Chicago Blackhawks liked Marian Hossa when they went free agent shopping in the off-season. A strong skater and scoring threat who could also play defence, they landed him with a big 12-year contract, figuring he would be a veteran influence on a young team with title hopes.

"All you hear about is guys talking about it's the toughest trophy in pro sports to win. There's no question it is."
Chris Pronger

Some players spend their entire career chasing the Stanley Cup without ever hoisting it.

Pronger and Hossa have found their way back to the final again — Pronger for the third time in five years with his third different team. He was on a winner with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007 after losing as a member of the Edmonton Oilers the previous year.

"All you hear about is guys talking about it's the toughest trophy in pro sports to win. There's no question it is," Pronger said Thursday after the Flyers arrived in Chicago dressed in matching orange hooded sweat shirts.

Hossa's trek is even more rare. He'll be playing in his third straight championship round with a different team.

He's lost his last two, first with the Penguins in 2008 and then last year as a member of the Red Wings when they fell to Pittsburgh and Sidney Crosby.

"Definitely want to touch the trophy," Hossa said.

"What you learn is that this is a great opportunity. Somebody will say you know it comes once in a lifetime and it comes three times for me. It didn't work out two times and hopefully the third time will be the one. Just keep hoping and do the best you can."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia Flyer Chris Pronger smiles as he talks to the media Thursday in Chicago.

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Refs will play factor in final: Cherry

NHL The rough-and-tumble Philadelphia Flyers will make life miserable for the speedy, skilled and favoured Chicago Blackhawks in the Stanley Cup final — provided the referees let them.

That's Don Cherry's take on the matchup for NHL supremacy, which begins Saturday in the Windy City featuring two teams that play contrasting styles of hockey.

The Flyers, led by tenacious captain Mike Richards, are a physically imposing group that often straddles the line between clean and dirty in using its size to contain, wear down and punish opponents.

The Blackhawks, on the other hand, are led by the dynamic duo of Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane and use their off-the-charts quickness and talent to skate around their rivals and pick them apart.

Whether brawn can negate finesse in the best-of-seven series may depend on the stripes.

"I think it's going to be how the refereeing is going to be," Cherry, the CBC's famed Hockey Night in Canada commentator, said during a conference call Thursday.

"If they start calling penalties like they did against San Jose (during the Western Conference final versus Chicago), it's really going to be tough on Philadelphia, I'll tell you that. I'm not saying letting it go, but if they let them play hockey, it's in Philadelphia's favour because let's face it, they are a lot tougher."

That toughness is why Cherry firmly believes the final will go a lot longer than many oddsmakers predict it will. The Blackhawks were impressive in series wins against Nashville, Vancouver and San Jose en route to the final, but none are as physical as the Flyers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don Cherry

NBA Lakers take 3-2 lead in series

MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phoenix Suns forward Grant Hill lies on the court during the second half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals against the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday in Los Angeles. Ron Artest's buzzer-beater secured a 103-101 win for the Lakers, who lead 3-2 in the series.

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NHL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at Chicago, 6 p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at Chicago, 6 p.m.

BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS
Kansas City 4 Boston 3
Minnesota 8 N.Y. Yankees 2
Oakland 7 Baltimore 5
Tampa Bay 5 Chicago White Sox 1

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS
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Jefferson to serve 2 years probation
Minnesota Timberwolves forward Al Jefferson will serve two years probation as part of his sentence for driving drunk. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Nash warrants this nation's attention

Professional winter sport is driving to a climax on two fronts. And in the land where hockey is king, a South African-born, Victoria-raised basketball player is stealing the show.

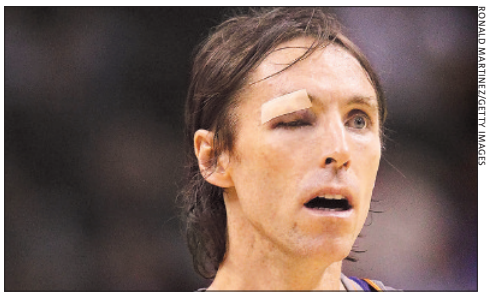
Steve Nash never demands but certainly warrants our attention.

At 36 years of age, blooded and bruised, the two-time NBA MVP is still in the hunt for a coveted prize that's escaped him — a league championship.

His quest for the golden ring is the most compelling odyssey any sports fan could ask for. Nash is a David in the land of Goliaths. He makes plays, delivers passes and scores points at a rate that leaves much bigger men bewildered.

Many would argue if you're not watching Steve Nash when he's on the court for the Phoenix Suns, you're not really watching the game.

Then again, he has always flown under the radar in this country. Nash has won of the Lou Marsh Award as Canada's athlete of the year only once — 2004. He could have been the slam-dunk choice at least five times, but at selection time it becomes a case of who's out there besides Nash? In other words, we Canadians sometimes take his talent for granted.


RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash after receiving six stitches to his eye against the San Antonio Spurs in Game 4 of the Western Conference semifinals earlier this month.

He's an athlete of substance — something not to be discounted.

Nash captained the Canadian Olympic team to a thrilling run at the 2000 Sydney Games. He lived in the Athletes Village and was often found playing table tennis with gymnasts and divers. He left the court in tears after Canada fell to France in the quarter-finals.

Off the court, he's a member of the Order of Canada and operates the Steve Nash Foundation, which provides millions of dollars to disadvantaged children around the world. He is outspoken on contentious issues surrounding the environment and poverty.

Nash also loves soccer. He remains a very good player and fully plans to be in South Africa for the World Cup. He may have to delay his departure.

There's something about Steve Nash and you don't want to miss it.

This great Canadian athlete's chance at crowning glory may never come again.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Same dream, different jersey for Leighton

NHL Michael Leighton pictured the scene the day he was drafted. He'd bow his head, listen to the national anthem and wait for the Chicago fans to go wild in tingly anticipation of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final.

Here he is now, 11 years after the Blackhawks drafted him, about to experience that thrill of his career:

Only in a Philadelphia Flyers sweater.

Leighton's winding journey from sixth-round pick to Philadelphia's hottest playoff goalie since the heyday of Bernie Parent or Ron Hextall takes him to Saturday's opening game of the Stanley Cup against the Blackhawks.

Not even on the post-season roster when this stirring run started, the Flyers might not be playing in their first Stanley Cup final since 1997 without Leighton's emergence from emergency sub to conference final star.

Keep it up, and the Flyers could be hoisting the Cup for the first time since 1975.

"It's unbelievable to come where I've come from, to be here right now," Leighton said.

Leighton was the first Flyers goalie with three shutouts in one series when he led them to a five-game win over Montreal in the Eastern Conference final. He's 6-1 with a 1.45 goals-against average and has stopped 95 per cent of his shots faced — numbers that win teams championships and earn an unrestricted free agent such as Leighton a hefty new contract.

TOM PIDGEON/GETTY IMAGES

Flyers goaltender Michael Leighton, shown here with the Blackhawks in 2003, was drafted by Chicago 11 years ago.

"Certainly, Michael Leighton is someone we've got to look to as part of our team," in the future, Comcast-Spectacor chief operating officer Peter Luukko said. "I don't ever recall a situation where you've had two goalies in the playoffs taking you to a certain spot and both have been outstanding."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

NFL Rookie offensive lineman Ed Wang has signed with the Buffalo Bills. Last month, Wang became the first player with direct Chinese ancestry to be selected in the NFL draft. His parents are former Olympic athletes who emigrated from China in the 1980s.

TENNIS Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak beat the approaching rain Thursday to advance to the third round of the French Open with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine. The 48th-ranked player from Blainville, Que., needed just more than an hour to defeat the 32nd-seeded Bondarenko.

NFL The Oakland Raiders have filed a grievance seeking nearly $10 million US back from recently released quarterback JaMarcus Russell. Yahoo! Sports first reported the story Thursday, saying the Raiders are seeking $9.55 million from Russell in what was paid as salary advances for the 2010-12 seasons. The team later confirmed the report.

NHL The Toronto Maple Leafs signed defenceman Korbinian Holzer to a two-year entry level contract Thursday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Did you know?
Upper Mount Royal is one of Calgary's most wealthy neighbourhoods and is home to some of the city's most expensive estates. The neighbourhood was originally known as American hill. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Your Neighbourhood:

Mission/Mount Royal

EDITOR: SARAH CAIRNS, SARAH.CAIRNS@METRONEWS.CA

Stop and smell the lilac festival

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Metro Calgary

Don't expect too many changes to the 21st Lilac Festival as the popular inner-city event follows the motto, if it ain't broke ...

The 4th Street Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) took over the event's organization over a decade ago from Cliff Bungalow-Mission's community members who came up with the idea back in 1990.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association president Bob Lang says, "We wanted to raise the profile and value of the community and we certainly accomplished that."

The Festival purposely coordinates with the blooming of abundant community lilacs and when the first Lilac Festival drew approximately 10,000 people, Lang says, "We knew we were onto something."

This year, seven entertainment stages, 500+ vendors, a kids area and food court should attract roughly 100,000 people to experience all the attractions, says Jennifer Rempel 4th Street BRZ executive director.

With it being an outdoor, rain or shine event the weather has played a significant role in previous years attendance, yet two years ago through the rain the Festival still saw 70,000 attendees.

She says the Lilac Festival has something for everyone: Shopping (4th Street store sidewalk sales), wide selection of food, crafts, entertainment (singers, dancers, buskers), beer gardens and a bit of charity at non-profit group booths.

Those interested should visit 4streetcalgary.com/ lilacfestival/ for the entertainment line-up, which lists what time, stage and group attendees can expect to see between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

SUBMITTED

Shop, drink and be entertained at the 21st annual Lilac Festival this weekend.

Catch the Lilac Festival Sunday

The website also has a "How to get here" link detailing bus routes and C-Train stop suggestions as parking is limited around the Festival. If driving is the only option, Rempel says two large parkades, one on 4th and 18th Ave. S.W. and the other on 4th and 23rd Ave. S.W., will offer their spaces for free during Festival hours.

Due to many other festival organizers filling some vendor booths Rempel says, "it's a really great place to plan out the rest of your summer as well."

Taking up 13 Calgary city blocks along 4th Street S.W. from Elbow Drive S.W. to 12th Avenue S.W., Rempel encourages people to to walk the whole length and experience everything the Lilac Festival has to offer.

A tale of two burroughs

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Metro Calgary

Mount Royal's city street boundaries are: to the north 17th Avenue then east to College Lane, Royal Avenue, Hope Street (both sides), Earl Gray Crescent, Ridge between Earl Gray Crescent and 29th Avenue then south to Council Way, 10th Street, Premier Way, 8th Street (both sides) and west to 14th Street in the southwest quadrant.

The community was established in 1904 and is referred to as upper and lower since they are naturally separated by an escarpment along Cameron Avenue and Royal Avenue.

Population, as of the 2008 City of Calgary civic census, indicates 3,279 residents were in Lower Mount Royal and 2,536 in upper Mount Royal.

Some homes currently for sale include a 3,829-square-foot, two-level home in upper Mount Royal with five bedrooms and four baths listed at $3M. An upper Mount Royal bungalow in reasonable condition with a large lot that can be subdivided going for $589,900.

Sitting to the east of Mount Royal is Cliff Bungalow-Mission.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission's city street boundaries are north to 17th Avenue then east to 1st Street, then south to Elbow River and finally west to College Lane, Royal Avenue, top of Hope Street and Cliff Street escarpment, Hillcrest Avenue, Elbow Drive and 5th Street all within the southwest quadrant.

Part of the community, Mission, was established in 1900 with Cliff Bungalow following in 1907.

The community's population as of 2008 City of Calgary civic census counted 4,159 residents.

Two properties for sale in Cliff Bungalow-Mission include a two bedroom, one bath condo for $255,000 and a single family two-storey home with four bedrooms, three baths for $595,000.

Who lives here

- As per the 2006 Census of Canada the highest percentage, 39.7 per cent, of lower Mount Royal residents range in age from 25 to 34 and the highest for upper Mount Royal is 20.7 per cent between 45 to 54.
- In Cliff Bungalow-Mission, the community's highest percentage, 28.6 per cent, of residents range in age of 25 to 34.

What's great here?

- Carmen Fons, 18, works at Starbucks on 4th Street. She lives in Cliff Bungalow-Mission and likes all the restaurants, stores and shopping opportunities in the area. She likes how close the community is to 17th Avenue as well.

- Joel Campbell, 32, works in oil & gas in Calgary and his wife Caelly Campbell, 29, who works for a software development company. They live in Cliff Bungalow-Mission with their dog Charlotte. They like the community for the ability to spend so much time outdoors at the dog park, along the river, walking along 4th Street or just sitting on the patio of Joyce on Fourth.

- He moved into Mount Royal with his wife (expecting a child in June) and their two-year-old daughter just in December '09 from Ramsey. He says their Ramsey home was perfect for the two of them, but they wanted a home and community to grow into with their expanding family. He loves all the old, developed trees and scenery to enjoy within Mount Royal when he takes walks with his daughter to the park. He says he likes that "there's always a dad and a little person at the park." He has the choice of a park on either end of the street his house resides on. The area just gives him a really good feeling.

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Eat, shop and play here

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Metro Calgary

Check out the sites and sounds of two Calgary southwest communities: Mount Royal and Cliff Bungalow-Mission.

Both share a long history within the city dating back to the early 1900s. Therefore, visitors can should stroll through the areas to take in historical buildings such as, St. Mary's Parish Hall (141 19 Ave. S.W.), Sacred Heart Convent (225 19 Ave. S.W.) or the Robinson House (1923 10 St. S.W.).

Cliff Bunglow-Mission is the proud home-base for 4th Street and the upcoming Lilac Festival, which will take up 13 blocks of this trendy, restaurant- and shop-lined street.

"Fourth Street has lots of little treasures for all sorts of people," says Jennifer Rempel executive director for the 4th Street Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ).

She mentions a new organic pet store that has a pot-bellied pig living within — Pawsitively Natural (18-2100 4 St. S.W.). She says the best part of the area is how walk-friendly it is, allowing people access to shopping, restaurants, furniture and more on foot.

Notable places to stop and eat or drink along 4th Street S.W. include Joyce on 4th Irish Pub (506 24th Ave S.W.), Nellie's on 4th (2308 4 St. S.W.), Vin Room (2310 4 St. S.W.) and Sushi Kawa (2202 4 St. S.W.) just to name a few.

There are home furnishing shops, consignment stores, coffee shops and art galleries.

Cliff Bungalow-Mission community association president Bob Lang notes community events — movie and jazz nights — are slanted to the younger demographic who inhabit the area. The association's website cliffbungalowmission.com lists upcoming events.

Mount Royal's reputation is that it has many of Calgary's most expensive and prestigious residences — some dating back a century and others completely new. It has established trees and greenery for residents and passers-by to enjoy on a nice pathway stroll.

The community is holding a family barbecue June 12 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. where members can eat hot dogs and hamburgers for free. See the community association's website for more local events mountroyalstation.ca.

Talisman Centre (2225 Macleod Trail South), which has swimming, basketball, volleyball, various classes, a track and more, is not far from either community to take advantage of. Also, downtown and 17th Avenue are close-by, slightly north alternatives for those interested to shop, eat and play in.

SHELBY BORYS/FOR METRO CALGARY

The 4th Street area is home to many shops and restaurants.

"Fourth Street has lots of little treasures for all sorts of people."
Jennifer Rempel, BRZ

Mount Royal homes focus of historical study

MICHELLE LINDSTROM
for Metro Calgary

The Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA) was created to celebrate history by protecting and preserving resources within the City's borders.

Each year, budget depending, an area of Calgary is targeted to research and document to add historical properties to the 500+ citywide CHA-approved inventory list.

This year, 19 properties in upper Mount Royal have been or will be reviewed by a consultant the CHA hired to note the historical elements each building possesses, explained Clint Robertson City of Calgary's heritage planner of centre city planning and design.

"We're always trying to expand and update the inventory, which was started in 1982," he said, noting at that time approximately five upper Mount Royal residences were a part of the inventory.

More were added within upper Mount Royal's boundaries in 1995, but financial resources did not become available again until now to pursue research into outstanding resources (residences) the CHA believed had historical merit.

Robertson said resources must meet at least one of nine criteria to be considered an eligible property with heritage value: Activity, event, institution, person/ people, design, style, construction, landmark or symbolic value.

"We're always trying to expand and update the inventory."
Clint Robertson

The property must not be altered so much its heritage has been altered by the renovations.

Last year, 70 resources were researched and documented citywide — a record number for the CHA in one year — with 17 in Cliff Bungalow-Mission. To have 19 within upper Mount Royal researched, it's a notable chunk for the committee to review in one community.

Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movie

Jake the rake Pg 22

The Prince of Persia, Jake Gyllenhaal's first foray into action hero territory, is just good enough to go see.

Movies Pg 24

Forget Sarah Marshall, Hill and Brand shine in the Greek.

Music Pg 27

Wintersleep gets dark with latest album New Inheritors.

Television Pg 30

Galecki reflects on Season 3 of The Big Bang Theory.

At a glance
Prince of Persia: Sands of Time ⊕⊕⊕,
Babies ⊕⊕⊕½, Mao's Last Dancer ⊕⊕⊕

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Sense of fun saves Prince

Prince of Persia: **Sands of Time**

Director: Mike Newell
Stars: Jake Gyllenhaal, gemma Arterton
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton thrive in the action of Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time.

If anyone should see Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time, it's the folks behind the recent Clash of the Titans remake.

In it they'd find a prime example of what their effects-heavy swords-and-sandals adventure was missing: A sense of fun. The film has much in common with Disney's first Pirates of the Caribbean film, though it doesn't quite hit the summer blockbuster mark as well.

Neither film is ashamed of its roots — a video game and an amusement park ride, respectively — and neither is concerned with taking itself too seriously. That's also a good lesson for any Prince of Persia viewer: You're here for a good time, so relax.

In his first foray into action hero territory, Jake Gyllenhaal digs into the role of adopted Persian royal Dastan with gusto, working just as hard at his character's rakish charm as he does at the building-leaping stunt work.

After an enjoyable character-defining prologue and battle sequence, Dastan is accused of planning the king's murder just as he unwittingly comes into possession of a powerful dagger.

On the run, he teams up with initial adversary and eventual love interest Tamina (Gemma Arterton, a survivor of the Clash of the Titans disaster) to protect the mystical artifact and clear his name. While Gyllenhaal and Arterton battle and bicker, they're surrounded by some able supporting performers, with adversaries led by Dastan's uncle (Sir Ben Kingsley) on their trail and an ostrich-racing desert mercenary (Alfred Molina) proving to be a hilarious and helpful ally. The fact that hardly anyone in the cast is actually, you know, Persian, does stick out, though.

There's a lot going on, but the filmmakers do a good job of keeping things clear and keeping the story moving — though anything based on a video game tends to manage forward momentum pretty easily.

The real appeal here are the set pieces, with thrilling rooftop chases, tense battles and crumbling temples. While the film may stumble a bit in the clumsy resolution to its story, it's still exactly what a good summer movie should be: a fun ride.

On the web

- For trailers, photos and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

Splice a melting pot of genres: Polley

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

FEATURE The upcoming Splice is a film set to subvert audience expectations.

Though marketed as big budget horror schlock from Hollywood, it's actually a rather thoughtful and unpredictable Canadian film from Cube director Vincenzo Natali that can be only be classified as a horror movie for lack of any other applicable genre.

Splice opens next Friday

The film stars the almost irritatingly talented Sarah Polley in a brief break from her burgeoning career as a director. The Sweet Hereafter star recently spoke with Metro about her new and difficult to classify movie.

"I don't know what it is actually," laughed Polley. "Its somewhere between a horror movie and a science fiction movie and a drama and a comedy, a real melting pot of genres. I think that's what makes it appealing to somebody like me who wouldn't traditionally seek out a science fiction or horror movie."

Polley appears alongside Adrien Brody as a pair of married scientists who have successfully created the first genetically engineered creature combing both human and animal DNA.

Shunned by the company funding their research, the couple begin raising the creature as their child and the film transforms from a monster movie into a bizarre commentary on the fears of parenthood.

"I think what's interesting about the film is that the humans are infinitely more monstrous than the creature at a certain point.

"We've always had monster movies to talk about ourselves and I think Splice is in that tradition in a strange way."

Polley is quick to acknowledge that she's not particularly enamoured with monster movies, but this film offers much more than empty scares and it was the many layers of the project that intrigued her.

"I want to be in films that have something to say or are innovative or push the envelope in some way and I feel like that can fit into any kind of film," explained Polley.

Alice reaches $1 billion mark
Disney's Tim Burton-directed 3-D adaptation of Alice in Wonderland became the sixth movie to cross the $1 billion at the global office, and the first spring release to ever reach the milestone. IMDB.COM

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Kutcher in for the kill

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Ashton Kutcher pulled double duty for his latest film, the romantic comedy/action hybrid Killers.

Not only does he star as a loving husband whose past as a CIA assassin comes back to haunt him and his clueless wife (Katherine Heigl), but he also served as producer on the film.

And while he admits they didn't finish on time or on budget, Kutcher is more than pleased with the results. "As a producer, I'm extremely satisfied with the film," he says. "We set out to make a movie that was a $100 million movie for $70 million. We got very, very close. I think we were a couple days over and a couple dollars over, but we kept it pretty well close."

Of course, it wasn't the smoothest of rides. Weather issues plagued the production from the beginning, Kutcher says, starting in the south of France. Nice, it turned out, was not so nice.

"We got to Nice, France, and it was supposed to be sunny and beautiful, but it was freezing and windy, and we were on a yacht that was pitching," he says.

"And then we got to Atlanta and, in the middle of the night, one of our generators got struck by lightning, so it just shut us down. And it rained and rained and rained. We got fogged out one night. Every single time one of those things happened, we just had to completely re-jigger what we were doing, in order to make the movie, make it on time and make it on budget."

As much as he's seen living the Hollywood lifestyle — and Twittering about it — Kutcher's producing work keeps his schedule pretty full.

"People are most shocked and most in disbelief that I go to the office every day. I have a job," he says. "When I'm not acting on a movie, I go to work, first thing in the morning. I'm at work at eight o'clock in the morning, and I get home from work at seven o'clock at night."

Of course, the acting still comes first, and playing a trained assassin in Killers meant a decent amount of stunt work. While Kutcher did rely on a stunt man for much of the film — "I'm not as awesome as Tom Cruise," he says. "I don't jump through glass" — he still wanted to be prepared.

"I did some fight training. I learned Krav Maga, Muay Thai and Kali, which is a Filipino knife fighting," he says.

"And then I realized that I should have learned how to movie fight because on the first fight scene, I knocked out a stunt guy. I felt really bad about that. And then I kicked [co-star] Rob [Riggle] in the face. I hurt a lot of people. I should have just let the stunt guy do everything."

Katherine Heigl and Ashton Kutcher star in Killers. Kutcher also produced the action comedy.

Killers hits theatres next Friday

Dancer pulls heartstrings

Mao's Last Dancer

Director: Bruce Beresford
Stars: Chai Cao, Bruce Greenwood
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Mao's Last Dancer is one of those "inspirational true story" movies custommade to be crowd pleasers.

The Australian production is headed by Driving Miss Daisy director Bruce Beresford and is even based on an autobiography by the central character.

The pedigree suggests heartwarming schmaltz and the filmmakers deliver. As long as you aren't expecting anything more than that, the movie will warm your blackened heart.

The film tells the tale of ballet dancer Li Cunxin, who grew up in rural poverty in Mao's communist China before being selected for the national ballet school.

His considerable skills soon led him to become the first dancer allowed to leave China to study in America.

He quickly adjusts to the new country's charm and falls in love with a lovely waspy ballerina. When he tries to marry his way into American citizenship the Chinese government throws a hissy fit, transforming Li into an important political figure as well as a beloved dancer.

The story is touching and powerful, with a nice cast led by award winning dancer Chi Cao, who combines forces with director Bruce Beresford to create some beautifully choreographed dance sequences.

Wonderful and hilarious supporting turns by Bruce Greenwood and Kyle MacLachlan keep the movie alive.

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Caesar's youth on film

The early years of Julius Caesar and Brutus are ready for some Hollywood treatment. 17 Again director Burr Steers plans to adapt the novels Gates of Rome and The Field of Swords into the historical epic Emperor: Young Caesar. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Greek brings big Brand humour

Brit comic mined his wild past for Aldous Snow role

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Early on during the production of Forgetting Sarah Marshall, Nick Stoller decided he wanted to make another movie starring his then-relative unknown supporting cast.

"During the first table read actually, I thought Jonah (Hill) and Russell (Brand) had amazing chemistry," said the sophomore director.

"I thought of this idea, pitched it and they both thought it was fun. They hadn't done this kind of thing before."

Well, that's not exactly true. After all, Brand played an obnoxious rock star named Aldous Snow in that 2008 comedy. Not coincidentally, he revives none other than Mr. Snow in Get Him to the Greek.

"It didn't make sense for Russell to be playing a new rock star since he just played a rock star in a movie that I directed so we thought we should spin it off," admitted Stoller.

Get Him To The Greek opens next Friday

But Brand's familiarity with the role didn't end there. A tale about a partying musician who is barely escorted from London to Hollywood alongside a meek executive (Hill), Snow walks a perilous, self-destructive path — not unlike the one Katy Perry's fiancé once travelled himself as a heroin-addicted comedian.

Russell Brand, right, and Jonah Hill star in Get Him To The Greek, directed by Nick Stoller (inset).

"I would sit down with him when I was writing the movie and basically interview him and ask him about addiction," said Stoller.

"I'd ask him what would cause him to fall off the wagon, what would he act like when he was an addict, how would he treat his assistant if he wanted something."

If the comedy is any indication, his assistant was treated rather callously. But don't mistake the negligence of Aldous Snow for the Russell Brand of today.

"Personality-wise he's very different," said Stoller. "(He's) a very polite, charming guy who's very effusive and talks a mile a minute and wants everyone to be comfortable … but there's certainly an emotional truth from his past that we kind of brought into the movie."

As for Stoller, he's now tonally rehabilitating himself as he moves from R-rated road flick to penning the new Muppet Movie with pal Jason Segel.

"We had a table read on Saturday with all the muppets. They literally had the puppeteers with the muppets," laughed Stoller, who's clearly still riding the high. "When I opened my computer program and wrote 'Kermit' as a character I was like, 'I can't believe I get to do this'."

"A MUST-SEE."
– Kim Kaufman, ALLOY.COM
"THE MOST ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR."
– Greg Russell, MOVIE SHOW PLUS

"Truly romantic and honestly funny."
– Stephen Schaefer, BOSTON HERALD
"The perfect date movie."
– Maria Salas, TERRA TV
"★★★★. A lovely and irresistible tale of true love… It's altogether wonderful."
– Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
"★★★★. LOVED IT! Vanessa Redgrave is sensational and Amanda Seyfried will absolutely steal your heart!"
– Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

LETTERS TO JULIET
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PG
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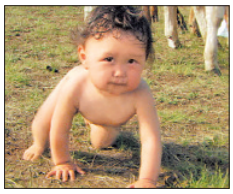
Movies

The kids are all right

Babies

Director: Thomas Balmes
Classification: G
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada


A scene from Babies.

Babies is a classic example of a film that says more by doing less. Of course, just what it says is up for debate.

French director Thomas Balmes uses a deceptively simple concept, filming four babies in four different countries to explore the different ways we raise children across the world, from birth to first steps. There's no narration, interviews, inter or subtitles.

Just 79 minutes of babies sleeping, crying, crawling, walking, pooping and, in one case, escaping the machinations of a curious goat.

Even the parents are shot mostly from the neck down, their dialogue muffled by ambient sound in Balmes's Charlie Brown world.

But putting the focus firmly on the kids ensures that nothing is sugarcoated or glossed over and the long shots don't cut away when the baby starts to bawl. You're right there with mom and dad, just wishing that the thing would shut up.

Balmes says that he has no agenda; he's not saying there's any one way to rear kids. But the two extremes in environment and culture his cast of titular characters are raised in — San Francisco and Tokyo, on one side, and tiny villages in Namibia and Mongolia on the other — reveals that he's got some serious reservations about the overscheduled, over-stimulated we way of raise or children.

But the lack of narration allows viewers to take what they want from this film.

Two hours of cute babies? You got it. Or, if you'd rather, a political treatise on the divergent values of the First and developing worlds.

Most viewers will probably take a little from Column A and a little from Column B, and enjoyment will have more to do with your general feelings towards the titular characters.

Those with kids may well look at Babies as a nostalgic romp through the high points of early parenthood.

Those of us without, particularly if contemplating whether now's the time to pull the baby trigger, will find themselves hopping on a bus to the nearest monastery.

"THE FIRST BLOCKBUSTER OF THE SUMMER!"
AJAY FRY, SPACE
"A FUN, ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE!"
BRIAN MCKECHNIE, CITYTV

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY. 28 TO THURS., JUN. 3. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:40
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:25
Clash of the Titans (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:05-9:35
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:40-7:20
Gunless (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:7:10-9:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 4:05-9:45
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:50-9:20
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:55
A Nightmare on Elm Street (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-7
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-7:20-9:50
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:30-8:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:30

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:4:30-7:30-10:25-10:30
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:25-7:10-9:40
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:05
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-1:15-3:30-4:10-6:50-7:35-9:35-10:35
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:40-3:15-6:45-7:20-10
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-12:30-3:20-3:45-6:40-7-9:55-10:20 No Passes Wed 12-3:20-4-6:40-7-9:55-10:20 No Passes Thu 12-12:30-3:20-3:45-6:40-7-9:55-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-3:40-7:25-10:15 No Passes Wed 3:40-7:25-10:15 No Passes Thu 1-3:40-7:25-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-12:05-2-2:30-4:40-5-7:15-7:40-9:50-10:10

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri 7:20-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:30
Mao's Last Dancer (PG) Fri 7:30-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:20
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes Fri 7-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-7-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-10:10
Robin Hood (14A) Fri 6:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Fri 6:45-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:45-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-10
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

Carrie, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, heads to the Middle East in Sex and the City 2.

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-6:40
Date Night (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:25
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3:10-6:35
Iron Man 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:40-1:10-4:20-6:45-7:20-10:10
Kick-Ass (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 10:15
Kites (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-3:55-7:10-9:40
Letters to Juliet (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:35-10:10
MacGruber (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:4:45-7:40-10
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-1:30-4-4:30-7:05-7:30-9:45-10:15
Robin Hood (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-3:25-3:50-6:55-9:35-10:05
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:15-12:45-1:15-3:30-4-4:40-6:50-7:15-8-10:05-10:30 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:15-12:45-1:15-3:30-4-4:40-6:50-7:15-8-10:05
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:25-9:50
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12-12:30-3-3:40-6:30-7-9-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12-12:30-3-3:40-6:30-7-9-9:20

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Avatar 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 9:30
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:25-6:50
Iron Man 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:20-10:25
Letters to Juliet (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:10
MacGruber (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 9:45
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-1:15-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:40-10:20
Robin Hood (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-7:10-10
Sex and the City 2 (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:15-6:45-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:45-3:15-4-6:45-7:45-10:15
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 1-1:30-3:45-4:15-6:40-7:15-9:20-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 1-1:30-3:45-4:15-6:40-7:15-9:20-9:50

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

City Island (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Wed 7-9:20 Thu 9:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:30-3:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:40
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:45-9:45
Brooklyn's Finest (18A) Fri-Thu 12:45-6:45-9:35
Clash of the Titans (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-7-9:55
Death at a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-10:10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:40
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:10-10
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:50
The Losers (14A) Fri-Thu 4-10:05

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Babies (PG) Fri-Wed 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:35 Thu 4:40-7:05-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Date Night (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:40-7:10-9:45 Mon 1-3:40-9:45 Tue-Wed 1-3:40-7:10-9:45 Thu 1-3:40-9:45
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25-10:20
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-4:15-7:20-10-10:20
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:05
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:05
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:15-1:05-3:15-4:05-7-7:25-10-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:15-3:15-4:05-7-7:25-10-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-12:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-10:30
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:50-4:30-7:15-8-10:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:45-10:10
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:15-9:45
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:30-2:30-3-5-5:30-7:30-8-10-10:30
Shrek Forever After: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Fairy Tales Queer Film Fest (STC) Fri-Thu
Kick-Ass (18A) Sat-Sun 1:35 Mon 4 Wed 4
Oceans (G) Fri 4:50 Sat-Sun 12-4:50 Tue 4:50 Thu 4:50

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

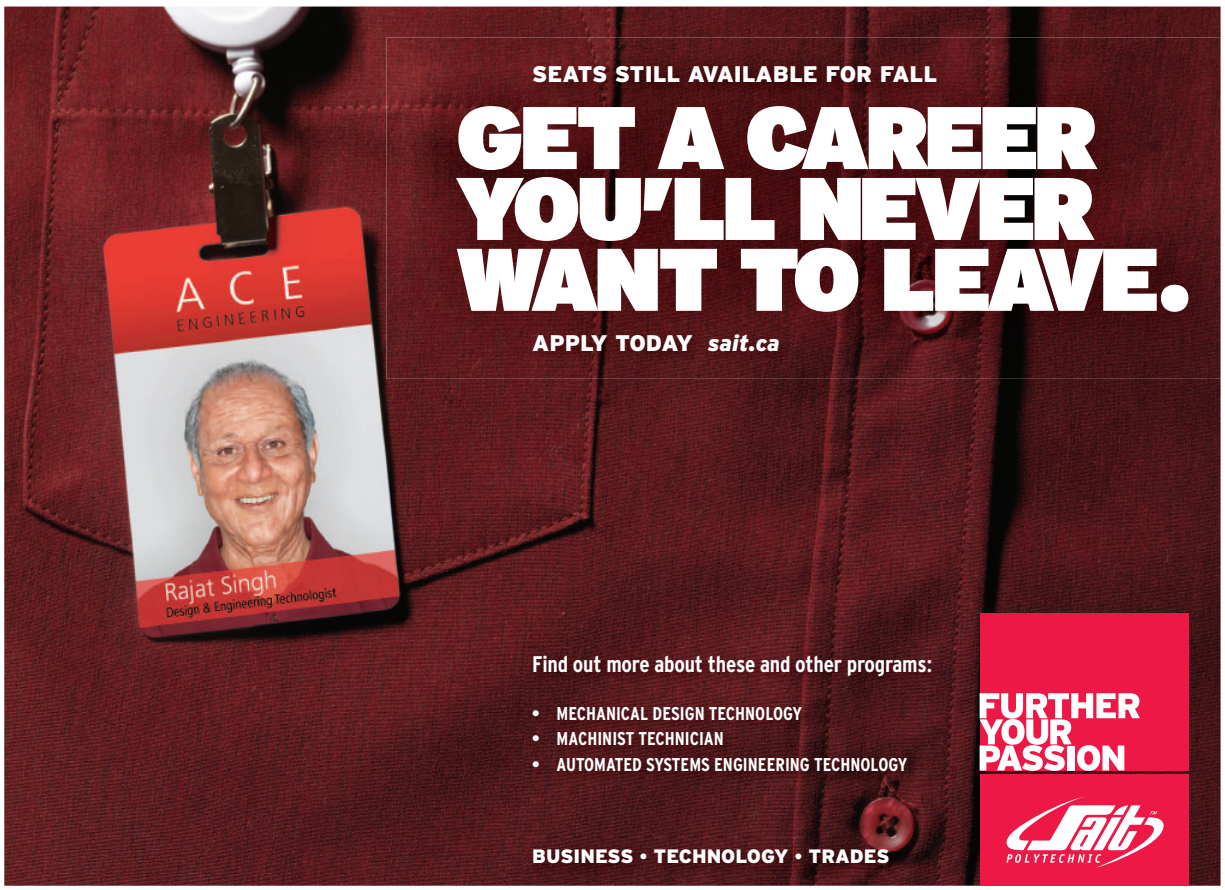
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:35-6:40-9:20
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:45-6:35-9:45 Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:05-10:10
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:50
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:50-6:50-9:25
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:50-12:35-3:05-3:40-6:45-7:20-9:40-10:10 No Passes Wed 11:50-3:05-3:40-6:45-7:20-9:40-10:10 No Passes Thu 11:50-12:35-3:05-3:40-6:45-7:20-9:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-12:15-3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-10:10-10:35
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Fri 11:30-12:20-3-3:50-6:30-7-10-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:30-12:20-3:10-3:50-6:30-7-10-10:30 No Passes Sun-Tue 11:30-12:20-3-3:50-6:30-7-10-10:30 No Passes Wed 11:30-3-4-6:30-7-10-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:30-12:20-3-3:50-6:30-7-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Shrek Forever After (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-2:55-7:10-9:45
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:40-12:40-2:15-3:25-4:55-6:30-7:30-9:10-10:15

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Chloe (18A) Fri 4:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:45
Exit Through the Gift Shop (14A) Fri 4:55-7-9 Sat-Sun 2:55-4:55-7-9 Mon-Thu 4:55-7-9
The Misfortunates (STC) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:45-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Date Night (PG) Fri-Sun 7:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 8:25
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10 Mon-Thu 6:05
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:05
Letters to Juliet (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:55
MacGruber (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:20-9
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-7:10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Sex and the City 2 (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:20-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:40 No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
Shrek Forever After 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-1:20-2:25-3:50-4:40-6:30-7:10-9-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-6:10-7:50-8:30



Top 5 albums on the Billboard 200

1. Glee: The Music, Volume 3: Showstoppers, Glee Cast; 2. Exile on Main Street (Deluxe Edition), The Rolling Stones; 3. Brothers, The Black Keys; 4. My World 2.0, Justin Bieber; 5. Distant Relatives, Nas and Damian Marley. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

In brief

CHARTS The following is HMV Canada's top 5 CDs based on national sales for the week ending May 29.

1. Stone Temple Pilots — Stone Temple Pilots
2. Glee: The Music, Volume 3: Showstoppers — Glee Cast
3. Exile on Main Street (Deluxe Edition) — The Rolling Stones
4. My World 2.0 — Justin Bieber
5. Wavin' Flag — Young Artists for Haiti

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP 10 RINGTONES
1 Airplanes B.o.B. & Hayley
2 Your Love If My Drug Ke$ha
3 Thunderstruck AC/DC
4 OMG Usher
5 My Chick Bad Ludacris
6 Wavin' Flag Artists for Haiti
7 Break Your Heart Taio Cruz
8 Pyramid Charice
9 Find Your Love Drake
10 Nothin' On You B.o.B.
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ROGERS

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Dark side of Winterleep

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

If there's one thing Wintersleep doesn't want to be accused of, it's being a brooding band. The Halifax-cum-Montreal five-piece know their music is dark, but that's where their moodiness ends.

"We're not bleak people," says singer Paul Murphy on the phone from Toronto's Hyatt Hotel. "We have this dark channel we turn on, but it's not about being p—ed off."

He's right, the band isn't angry, but they sometimes have a twisted way of looking at the world. On Encyclopedia, the second track off the band's latest album, New Inheritors, Murphy sings about a character who "was flat on his back on the beach in the freezing sand." By the end of the song Murphy wonders if he's still alive and, when he realizes he is he asks, "what's it worth?"

There's also a bit of hopefulness, in a roundabout way. On Terrible Man he talks about a 27-year-old who's afraid of aging and has female problems. He doesn't get the girl, but in the end seems calmly resigned with his lot in life.

Wintersleep took home the Juno Award for new group of the year in 2008.

Murphy says all that gloominess is a "means to an end, where the end is not necessarily bleak but it's the way of getting there."

While Murphy says that much of the words came from a personal place, outside influences — the collapsing economy, wars and other world issues that occurred since they released their last record, the Juno-winning Welcome to the Night Sky — also account for some of the unhappier subject matter.

"This record isn't about Iraq or 9/11," says Murphy, "but this sort of stuff will leak into the songwriting and the mood. It's part of everybody's existence."

Musically the band is at their strongest. They tackle a range of sounds from peppy indie rock on Black Camera to epic, atmospherics on Baltic. But it's on opener Experience the Jewel where the band has evolved the most — it's the first time they've used strings, and orchestral arrangements created by Belle & Sebastian's Mick Cooke no less.

"We felt there was some room for strings on the song," Murphy explains. "We could have done more but we didn't want to go crazy. We don't have a string section that we tour with.

"We've never done that before," he adds. "We thought it would be neat to have it on songs that we felt could maybe use a lift."

"We're not bleak people. We have this dark channel we turn on, but it's not about being p—ed off."
Paul Murphy

For many, this disc will be worth the three-year wait and while Murphy doesn't think it'll take as long to release the next one, he'll only know for sure when his gut, or rather, bodily functions, tell him to get off the road and back into the studio.

"This is the longest you can go without going nuts from touring the same songs," he says. "You keep going until you feel like you're going to throw up."

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Amazon.ca's bestselling albums

1. Exile on Main Street, The Rolling Stones; V3 Glee: The Music, Various Artists; 3. Infinite Arms, Band of Horses; 4. Rebel Within, Hank Williams III; 5. Brothers, The Black Keys. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

iPad will change music

SoundCheck

Now that Canadians are taking delivery of their iPads, let's look at what Steve's device could mean for music:

- A big uptick in impulse purchases. It'll be even easier to say "yes" to a single song for $1.29. Before you know it, you'll have said "yes" 10 times. It'll be interesting to see what this will mean for the concept of the album
- This is the real beginning of the end for traditional printed music magazines. Can you imagine iPad–based music magazines that update constantly? I can't wait for Rolling Stone, Q, Mojo and the rest of them adapt. No more waiting for that monthly issue. And no more being two months behind with U.K. publications.
- The social networking aspect of music — sharing song recommendations — will speed up.
- Think of what this means to soundtracks for movies and TV shows. As you're watching, say, Grey's Anatomy on your iPad and you want to know what the mournful song is under Meredith's sappy soliloquy in the final act, you can just tap to buy instantly. Same with movie soundtracks. If I were into music licensing, I'd prepare for an onslaught of new business.
- And why stop at movies and TV? Now that the iBook store is here, why not assemble soundtracks for books? Can you imagine what Nick Hornby's Hi-Fidelity would sound like?
- Radio will evolve. We're moving closer and closer to a time where all content will be available on demand. Why not on-demand radio? You continue with your real-time over-the-air broadcast, but you also make everything available to your audience so they can consume what you do on their terms. With cars quickly turning into $30,000 A/V units on wheels, radio's biggest audience — people in automobiles — will fragment. The iPad is another device that will lure people away from standard broadcasting. Radio companies (both terrestrial and satellite) know that they need to augment what they do to meet the demands of the new media consumer. This is a huge opportunity.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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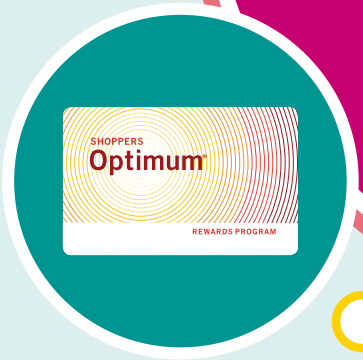

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Michaels' Idol performance a surprise to family, doctor

Bret Michaels didn't tell his doctors or his family that he planned to perform on American Idol. Though the rocker and reality TV star has suffered from life-threatening health problems recently, he sang on Wednesday's star-studded season finale. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Galecki appreciates the trials of geekdom

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Television and stage veteran Johnny Galecki is wrapping up his third season on the breakout hit The Big Bang Theory.

Galecki spoke with Metro about his on-screen relationship and working in front of an audience.

Q Were you glad the writers brought Penny and Leonard together relatively early instead of dragging it out?

A Yeah. Chuck Lorre said it best that dangling that romance carrot over an audience's head for a long period of time for many, many seasons has been done a lot, and it's been done very, very well a lot. You know, Leonard has no experience in romance, and I think that Penny's experience in romance has not been all that profound or significant. And I love that it's not become the focal point of the show in any way because that just rings true to me.

Johnny Galecki

Q How do you relate to your character?

A I wasn't a science geek. I was a theater geek, and I think that's how all four of us guys can relate to our characters. I'm from Chicago where if you're not a jock, then you're not the most popular kid by any means. Jim is from Texas, where that must be the case even more so. So, you know, that's something that we all share with our characters, and I think that refuge that people find in fantasy and science fiction is common when you feel like an outsider growing up.

Q Do you like working with a studio audience?

A Totally. The cameras are really, really easy for me to ignore. It feels like any other theater stage I've worked on. That's what we're doing, you know? These are 22-minute plays we put on every week.

Q With a studio audience, how do you cope when a joke fails?

A It depends on how drastic their lack of a reaction is. It's funny because you expected the laugh there for so long that you just start laughing. I've just fallen flat on my face, haven't I? The writers are right there, and they're great. It's amazing how in 30 seconds they'll have six alternatives for that joke that's conducive to the scene, the timing, and the people in it. It's just incredible.

Q What about Comic-Con? You must be pretty popular there.

A Well, Comic-Con is amazing. The fans are very sweet. Everyone says that about fans of whatever project they're working on, but I think especially they approach these characters in such a protective manner because they're such vulnerable characters.

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/28/10	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Flashpoint		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Medium "Bite Me"		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Coach
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wife Swap (N)		20/20 A woman is suspected of murder.		
	245	306 6 CBRT	22 Minutes	Laughs	Ron James: Manitoba Bound		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS		Friday Night Lights (N)		The Good Guys "Pilot"		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Warehouse 13		Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Murdoch Mysteries		EP Daily
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Medium "Bite Me"		Miami Medical
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Washington	McLaughlin	Need to Know (HDTV) (N)		News	NW Profiles	Appalachia
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC (HDTV)		
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Past Life "Saint Sarah"		The Good Guys "Pilot"		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:30) NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Boston Celtics.				SportsCentre		30 for 30		E:60
	408	418 27 net	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (N)		Hockey Central	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (N)		Ultimate Fight
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	To Be Indie	To Be Indie	To Be Indie	To Be Indie	10 Things	10 Things	*10 Things I*
	557	541 39 FAM	Wizards-Place	Jonas	Good-Charlie	Suite/Deck	*The Haunted Mansion* (2003, Comedy)			*The Mighty* (1998, Drama)	
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*NYC: Tornado Terror* (2008, Suspense) Nicole de Boer.				Kenny vs.
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Handyman		Egypt Unwrapped (N)		Daily Planet		Canada's Worst Handyman		Dirty Jobs
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scn	(7:36) 1,000 Ways to Die		(8:21) Prisoners Out of Control			Ways to Die	GameTrailers	UFC Prime
	522	516 45 HIST	Ultimate Engineering		Ax Men (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		*The Package* ★★★ (1989, Suspense)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *True Crime* ★★★ (1999, Crime Drama)			*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* ★★ (2003, Adventure)					*Frightnrs*
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	The Hills	After	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/29/10	243	317 3 CFCN	W5 (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU		Flashpoint "Scorpio"		The Bridge (DVS)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*All About Women* ★★ (2008, Romance-Comedy) Zhou Xun.				Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	Time Life	Entertainment Tonight		Lost "The End" (HDTV) The series concludes.				Jimmy Kimmel
	245	306 6 CBRT	(6) NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Chicago Blackhawks.				*Sling Blade* ★★★ (1996, Drama) Billy Bob Thornton, Dwight Yoakam.				
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9-Picture	renegadepress	*You Lucky Dog* (2010, Drama) Natasha Henstridge.				Jane Show	G-Spot	News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Cooking	Most Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	*Housesitter* (2007, Suspense) Tori Spelling. (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		Flashpoint "Scorpio"		48 Hours Mystery		48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	*Gigi* ★★★★ (1958, Musical) Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier.				Globe Trekker
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6) NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Chicago Blackhawks.				To Be Announced				
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Acceptance"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Assassination-Bobby Kennedy		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Assassination
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:30) NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns.				SportsCentre (HDTV)		Boxing Arreola vs. Adamek & Angulo vs. Julio.		
	408	418 27 net	MLB Baseball		Countdown to	Countdown to	Replay		Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Wingin' It	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Neverending Story II* (1990, Fantasy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped		Top Chef Masters		French Food at Home		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds "In Heat"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	*Spider-Man 2*	About a Girl	ReGenesis (HDTV)		*Cleaverville* (2007, Suspense) Ever Carradine.				*Resident Evil*
	520	505 35 DISC	Deadliest Catch		Destroyed	Destroyed	Breaking Point "Tanker"		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Handyman
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC 114: Preliminaries		*Star Wars IV: A New Hope* ★★★★ (1977, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher.						*Star Wars-Sith*
	522	516 45 HIST	Storm Planets (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*The Bourne Identity* (2002, Suspense)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Outlaw Josey Wales* ★★★ (1976, Western)				*Pale Rider* ★★★ (1985, Western) Clint Eastwood, Michael Moriarty.				
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 gays	MTV Live	Movie Night	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/30/10	243	317 3 CFCN	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	*Turn the Beat Around* (2010, Drama) Romina D'Ugo.				Criminal Minds (N)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Losing My Religion		Aaram	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard		Speaking in Tongues		Nation of Cha
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	The Insider (N)	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		The Bachelorette (HDTV)		
	245	306 6 CBRT	Geologic Journey		*Shania: A Life in Eight Albums* (2005, Docudrama)				CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	244	338 7 CICT	King of the Hill	Cleveland Sh	The Simpsons	Family Guy	*The Summit* (2008, Suspense) Mia Maestro.				News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Ext. Makeover: Home Edition		Survivorman		Crusoe
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes Presents: Gotti (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		Cold Case "Forensics"		Cold Case
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford		National Memorial Day Concert (2010)			National Memorial Day Concert (2010)			MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	KHQ-News 6	Advantage	Dateline NBC (HDTV)				Saturday Night Live in the 2000s		
	-	373 22 KAYU	(3) NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup: Coca-Cola 600.				Bones (HDTV)		House "Honeymoon"		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Lady's Guide to Brothels			Mansbridge	CBC News: The National		Lady's Guide
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:30) NBA Basketball Boston Celtics at Orlando Magic.				SportsCentre		30 for 30 (HDTV)		Fight Sports
	408	418 27 net	(6) Darts Premier League.		Countdown to	Countdown to	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Air Bud: Golden Receiver* ★ (1998, Comedy-Drama)				To Be Indie	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Suite/Deck	Wingin' It	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*The Rookie* ★★★ (2002, Drama)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Hell's Kitchen		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Disturbia*	Kink in Hair	Pure Pwnage	Trailer Park	*Devil's Diary* (2007, Suspense) Alexz Johnson.				*Resident Evil*
	520	505 35 DISC	Into the Universe		MythBusters YouTube myths.		Bourdain: No Reservations		Into the Universe		Universe
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Star Wars IV*	(7:40) *Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back* ★★★★			(1980, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill.			*Star Wars VI: Return*	
	522	516 45 HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Inside the Vietnam War		*We Were Soldiers* ★★★ (2002, War)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(5:30) *A Perfect Murder*		Breaking Bad "Abiquiu"		(9:02) Breaking Bad		(10:03) Mad Men		Breaking Bad
	581	566 102 MTV	The Challenge: Fresh Meat II		The Challenge: Fresh Meat II		MTV Live	Movie Night	1 girl 5 gays	Ult. Parkour	The Challenge

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Stallone's adviser charged

A financial adviser to celebrities including Wesley Snipes and Sylvester Stallone has been arrested on charges that he carried out a $30 million US fraud on his clients. Kenneth Starr, 65, of Manhattan was charged with wire fraud and money laundering. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

In good company

- All of the actors on the long-running hit Friends were in flops before striking sitcom gold. Matthew Perry, who returns in the NBC mid-season series Mr. Sunshine next season, was pretty much ignored on such forgotten comedies as Second Chance and Home Free. Matt LeBlanc suffered through TV 101, Top of the Heap and Vinnie & Bobby.
- Hollywood A-Lister George Clooney paid his dues in several short-lived shows before breaking through in ER.

The dreader killer label

Star in too many flops, and you can get that name

The term "showkiller" can send a chill down the spine of any TV star. Just ask Eric Balfour.

The California native is among a handful of actors and actresses who have occasionally been singled out by critics as "showkillers" — people who practically guarantee a series will not catch on with audiences.

"I kept auditioning for television shows that went to pilot, the network picked it up and it went on the air," says Balfour, currently shooting the Showcase and Syfy drama Haven in Nova Scotia.

"For whatever reason, those shows didn't stay on the air. And there was a moment when everyone went, 'Oh, it's Eric...'"

Landing a role in a Dick Wolf legal drama in 2006 seemed like Balfour's ticket to renewal. But when even "Conviction" failed to win a renewal verdict, critics pounced, and that seems unfair, says Balfour.

He argues that he has no control over writing, producing or scheduling.

Part of the showkiller rap can be blamed on the semi-annual network press tours in Los Angeles, where cast members and producers are paraded out on stages each new season.

Many critics in that room keep seeing the same faces every year, and after a few flops, the "showkiller" tag starts to surface.

Paula Marshall is a prime example. While her press tour appearances are usually winners, she seems to have bad luck landing a series that sticks. Critics generally rooted for her in the 1998-99 series "Cupid," but it was cancelled after 15 episodes.

Within eight years, she starred in six different series that lasted less than a season, including Snoops (1999) and Hidden Hills (2002). Gary Unmarried was her first series to be picked up past the first season; it was just cancelled at CBS.

Eric Balfour in shooting yet another series.

Paula Marshall's latest series was just cancelled.

The good news for actors like Balfour and Marshall is that they're in good company. All of the actors on the long-running hit Friends were in flops before striking sitcom gold.

Hollywood A-Lister George Clooney paid his dues in several short-lived shows before breaking through in ER. He even appeared in a previous hospital series called E/R as well as such forgotten shows as Baby Talk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Trudeau enters fictional local politics

Political star Justin Trudeau is the latest real-life politician to appear on the upcoming city hall sitcom She's The Mayor.

Producers of the VisionTV series say the eldest son of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau visited the Toronto set to earlier this week.

She's The Mayor stars Janet-Laine Green as Iris Peters, the neophyte mayor of the dysfunctional city of Fairfax.

Colin Mochrie plays the tightly wound, germophobic city manager Scott Lindford, while Tonya Lee Williams is Iris's glamorous, self-involved communications director, Maxine Williams.

Justin Trudeau

Trudeau, a Liberal MP for the Montreal riding of Papineau, is just the latest political figure to join the cast for a cameo. Others have included former prime minister Kim Campbell and former MP Jean Augustine. She's the Mayor is expected to premiere later this year on the multifaith and multicultural broadcaster VisionTV.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Nelson cuts his hair

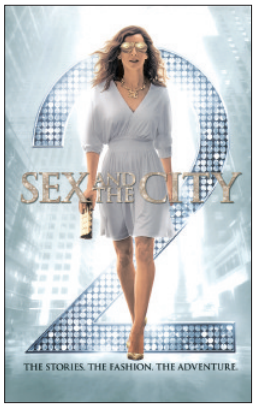
Country music fans have come to expect a little eccentricity from legendary crooner Willie Nelson, but he pulled off a real shocker this time. The singer cut off his signature waist-deep, reddish pigtails! THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 SATC 2

BOOK On your way out to catch the sequel this weekend, check out Sex And The City 2: The Stories. The Fashion. The Adventure (Running Press) for a detailed look at the glamourous ensembles the four fabulous friends wear on their adventure from New York City to the Middle East. Label information on each piece of clothing as well as tons of beautiful photos make up the bulk of the book. However, behind-the-scenes stories, actor interviews and a look at other key cast members are also included. Available at Chapters stores nationwide for $25.



2 iPAD

TECHNOLOGY Expect long lines at your local Apple, Best Buy, Future Shop and other tech stores on Friday: Aplen's new iPad — enabling you to browse the net, read books and newspapers, and do a number of other cool things — goes officially on sale.

3 Alice in Wonderland

DVD Tim Burton's take on the classic Alice in Wonderland hits store shelves on Tuesday. The director's new spin on the story of the Mad Hatter, White Queen and Red Queen will be available in DVD and Blu-Ray and digital copies.

4 Arcade Fire

MUSIC Montreal indie sensation Arcade Fire announced this week that new album The Suburbs will be released on Aug. 3. A limited edition 12-inch will be available in stores on May 27, featuring singles Month of May and The Suburbs. Both those tracks are also currently streaming at arcadefire.com.

5 Butting Out

HEALTH There's no better way mark the start of the summer season then by butting-out, at least that's part of the idea behind World No Tobacco Day on Monday. Those thinking of quitting can visit smokershelpline.ca for some tips.

6 Liza Minnelli

CELEBRITY It looks like Liza Minnelli can still belt them out. The daughter of the late Judy Garland is featured in the new Sex And The City movie doing her rendition of Beyoné's Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It). Of course, we all know what happened the last time Liza tied the knot.

7 Simon Cowell

TV He may be one of the most derisive people on TV, but Simon Cowell still got the send-off he deserved on American Idol on Wednesday night. The man who helped ring-in reality television did it right, with guest stars Carrie Underwood, Christina Aguilera and Janet Jackson.

Bon Jovi opens new NJ stadium with concert

MUSIC Bon Jovi has officially opened the new stadium for the New York Giants and New York Jets with a rock concert for 65,000 fans.

The New Jersey band launched Wednesday's show at New Meadowlands Stadium with Blood on Blood, We Weren't Born to Follow and You Give Love a Bad Name.

Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi grew up in Sayreville, near the East Rutherford stadium. He told the crowd he was "the first guy to get on a big microphone and say welcome to the home of the Super Bowl!"

The NFL announced Tuesday the stadium would host the championship game in 2014.

The Giants and Jets own the stadium and are looking to cut a naming rights deal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of Six

4th Street Lilac Festival

When: Sunday
Where: 4th St. S.W. from 12 Ave.-25 Ave

Enjoy the wide array of entertainers that are featured on stages and entertainment zones along 4th Street in the heart of the Mission district. In addition, shop at over 600 craft, food and entertainment vendors along the 13 blocks of the festival.

Calgary Ukrainian Festival

When: Saturday & Sunday
Where: Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Dr. N.W.

Visitors can browse local vendors and featured artwork and pysanky, traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs. And don't forget your appetite! Sample locally-made authentic varynyky (perogies), holubchi (cabbage rolls), and kolbassa - washed down by several imported beer and vodka.

Calgary Beerfest

When: Friday & Saturday
Where: Big Four Building (Upstairs), Stampede Park

Once inside, you can purchase sample tokens to enjoy 100's of beers from down the block to around the world, delicious food from some of Calgary's most delicious eateries, plus a sample of coolers & ciders. Talk with beer experts as they educate you about their products. Sit back and soak in the live music from some of Calgary's top local performers. Lots of great prizes to be won.

18th Annual CUPS/Calgary Stampeders Kickoff Breakfast

When: Friday
Where: Hyatt Regency Calgary, 700 Centre St. S.E.Breakfast

Meet many of Calgary's gridiron greats and celebrate the beginning of another exciting season of Stampeder football while raising funds for CUPS Health & Education Centres.

Fairy Tales International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

When: On until June 4
Where: The Plaza Theatre, 1133 Kensington Road N.W. & Uptown Stage & Screen, 612 8th Avenue S.W.

Alberta's only film and video festival dedicated to gender and sexual diversity, the festival features over 90 films and videos across 10 days.

Bragg Creek Festival

When: All weekend
Where: Bragg Creek Centre, 23 White Ave., Bragg Creek, Alberta

This is a festival of musical encounters, highlighting and blending Classical, Latin, Folk and Jazz genres. The artists will cross the conventional boundaries that usually divide music into genres or traditions.

In brief

PEOPLE The hotel employee who found Slipknot bassist Paul Gray dead in his room told a 911 operator that there was a hypodermic needle next to Gray's bed and there were "all kinds of pills everywhere." TownePlace Suites maintenance worker Mike Kellow told the operator Monday morning that he found the 38-year-old Gray's body in a corner of his room slumped against a wall. "There's a hypodermic needle next to the bed here," Kellow said. The dispatcher asked if Gray was awake. "Oh God, no. He's all purple," Kellow said. Kellow told the operator it appeared that Gray had been "gone a while."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

House of McQueen names new designer

The house of Alexander McQueen has named Sarah Burton, a longtime colleague of the late designer, to be the new creative director of the brand.

In a statement from London released yesterday, Burton said she intends "to stay true to his legacy" by turning out "modern beautifully crafted clothes."

The announcement was part of a series of shake-ups announced yesterday. At luxury label Hermes, womenswear artistic director Jean Paul Gaultier is being replaced by Lacoste's Christophe Lemaire. And Theory confirms a Women's Wear Daily report that Olivier Theyskens, formerly of Nina Ricci and Rochas, will design a capsule collection for next year.

McQueen, hailed as a creative genius in the fashion world, committed suicide in his London apartment in February.

Burton joined McQueen's company in 1996, a year before graduating Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. She most recently served as head of design for womenswear.

Sarah Burton worked closely with Alexander McQueen.

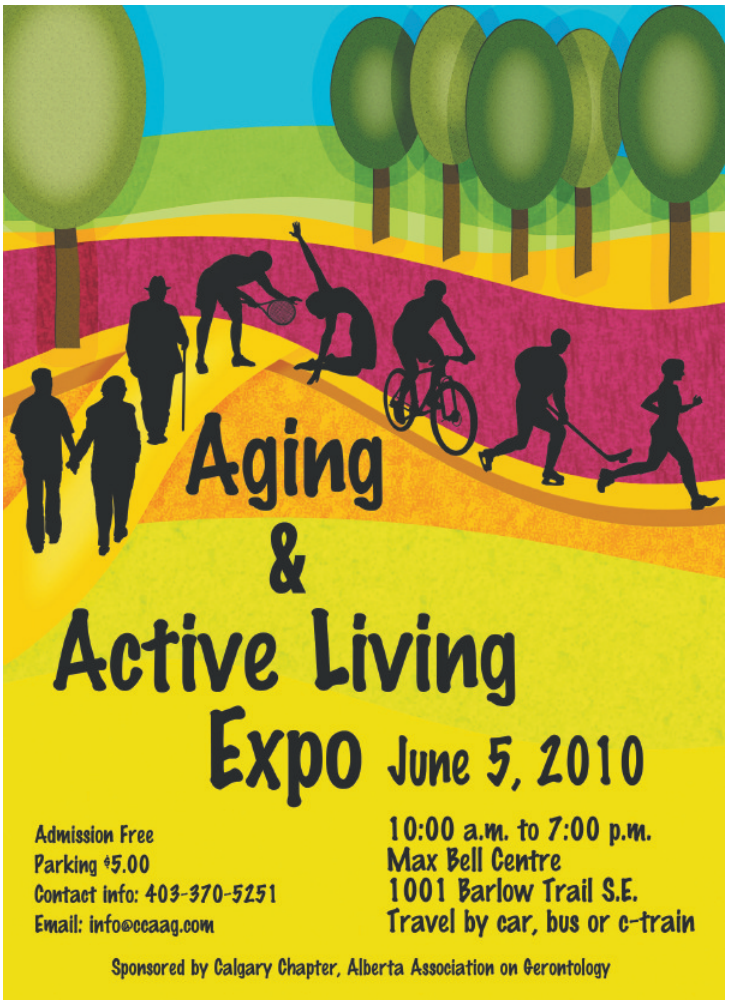
Parent company Gucci Group said that because Burton worked so closely with McQueen she has "the vision necessary to take it forward."

"As a business we remain absolutely committed to the Alexander McQueen company which has proved to have a strong customer loyalty and has shown to be a resilient brand in the aftermath of the tragic loss of its founder," said Gucci Group GEO Robert Polet.

Susan Cernek, Glamour's senior online fashion and beauty editor, said hiring from within was respectful to McQueen — and kind to any designer who would be trying to fill such big shoes.

"It seems like a smart move to appoint someone who worked so closely with him," she said. "Someone from the outside might be in an uncomfortable position to try to channel someone who is so revered so soon after he passed away. ... Seemingly the vision that Sarah will bring will be really closely aligned, not his, but closely aligned."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MJ's former doctor loses bid

Michael Jackson's former doctor lost a bid in a California court to resolve a child support issue that threatens his Nevada medical license. A hearing is set June 25 before a Family Court hearing officer in Las Vegas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Perfecting the sting

Master distiller shares scotch appreciation rules

TIM WIECLAWSKI
for Metro Canada

I find scotch a little hard to swallow. Straight scotch is tough to drink and stings going down. It makes you wonder why people drink it.

As it turns out, I'm not alone. Even Ian Millar, the master distiller and brand ambassador for Glenfiddich, likes his scotch with a couple drops of water in it. That takes the sting from the alcohol and helps bring out the toffee and caramel flavours.

"It changes it hugely," said Millar, when we sat down at Tosca Ristorante in downtown Ottawa, Ont., to sample Glenfiddich's 12, 15, and 18-year-old scotches.

However, the bite when swallowed is a part of the drinking experience. Scotch is meant to be taken in small quantities, he said — two, maybe three glasses, over the course of an evening, and that's it.

"It's not about knocking it back to get drunk," he said. "It's just to gentle you down. A couple whiskies a night is good enough. You're comfortable. You can't drive home but you're still going to be okay the next morning."

TRACEY TONG/METRO CANADA

Glenfiddich ambassador and master distiller Ian Millar, left, teaches Metro reporter Tim Wieclawski how to appreciate scotch recently.

There are no rules to drinking scotch, but Millar suggests drinking it at room temperature or slightly warmer in order to bring out the flavours in the scotch.

Millar even wraps his hands around his glass to transfer his body heat to the liquid. When it's warmed up a bit, a light pear flavour should be detectable also, he said.

"That's why single malt doesn't really work with ice," said Millar. "But it does in hot countries on very hot days."

According to the law, all single-malt scotch must be in its cask for at least three years. The distilling process involves a delicate balance of liquids matured in European and American Oak casks, that add something different to the flavour, said Millar.

In the 15-year-old Scotch, they use virgin American oak casks to inject a layer of honey sweetness, European oak to infuse it with a hint of raisin; and ex-bourbon casks to add some spice to the mix.

"If you're going to have a scotch before breakfast, this is a good one," joked Millar.

An 18-year-old scotch is going to have much more flavour and aroma because it has spent six more years in the cask.

Glenfiddich does special editions of older vintages. This year in Canada, they are releasing two bottles of 50-year-old scotch. One bottle is available to only those with $30,000 lying around. The other bottle though will be opened for a special tasting event at the Fairmont Banff Springs. The only way to take part in that is to win a spot from the "North of 50" Father's Day contest, open now at glenfiddich.ca.

Lawsuit against Bundchen, Brady dismissed
A judge has dismissed a lawsuit by two photographers who said they were shot at by bodyguards of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity Buzz

Fergie going on Oprah

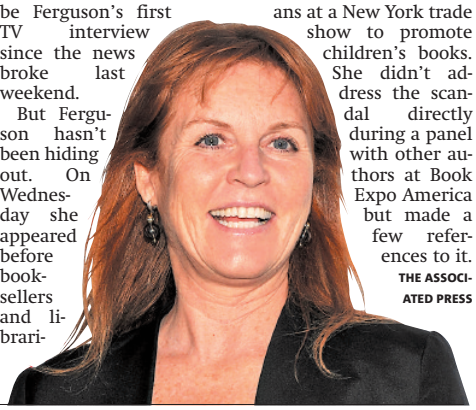
WHAT'S $724,000 BETWEEN GOOD FRIENDS? The Duchess of York is taking her side of the story to the queen of television.

Just days ago, a British tabloid reported that Sarah Ferguson was caught on video offering access to her former husband, Prince Andrew, for $724,000. Now, she's going to tell her side of the story to Oprah Winfrey.

The Oprah Winfrey Show says the interview with the Duchess of York will air Tuesday.

The program says it will be Ferguson's first TV interview since the news broke last weekend.

But Ferguson hasn't been hiding out. On Wednesday she appeared before booksellers and librarians at a New York trade show to promote children's books. She didn't address the scandal directly during a panel with other authors at Book Expo America but made a few references to it.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garth blamed for split

IF YOU ARE GONNA MAKE UP A FAKE AFFAIR AT LEAST HAVE IT BE BRAD PITT OR GEORGE CLOONEY Country music star Garth Brooks has found himself in the middle of a divorce battle between a couple he's never met, according to the National Enquirer.

"My wife would leave the house for periods of time indicating that she was 'going to meet Garth,' referring to Garth Brooks, the country music singer," the husband claims in court papers obtained by the newspaper. "She claimed to be contacting him by e-mail, cell phone and in person."

The wife insists she's not obsessed with Brooks and has never met him, saying, "My husband was doing drugs, and when I found out, I stopped letting him see my son. That's when they cooked up this rumor I was having an affair with Garth Brooks."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

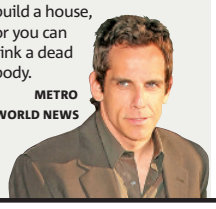
LINDSAY LOHAN is star-struck, **BEN STILLER** was a 24 fan until the end, **MATTHEW PERRY** is still obsessing over Lost, and **LADY GAGA** is getting poetic.

@lindsaylohan
at a lunch mtng w/my friend Victoria & Johnny Depp just came and said hi to me, life is good. Need I say more? NOPE!

@RedHourBen
24 finale was really moving. That show was so consistently entertaining for so long. I will miss Jack Bauer.

@langfordperry
Knowing what we know now, is it worth going back to season 1 and watching all over again? Why am I up so late? Who am I talking to?

@ladygaga
Love is like a brick. You can build a house, or you can sink a dead body.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Lohan really did lose her passport

BUT HER DOG DENIES CLAIMS OF EATING HER HOMEWORK It turns out that Lindsay Lohan was telling the truth about having a return flight from France booked for last week to get her home in time for the court date that she ended up missing, according to TMZ.

Lohan used a travel agency in Nashville to purchase the $6,860 ticket on Swiss Air but claims she couldn't take the flight because her passport had been stolen. But she's running out of allies, with ex-boyfriend Aaron Carter saying he hopes she ends up in jail.

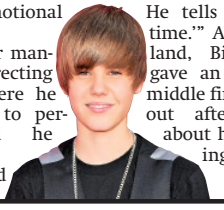
"It hurts me to see that. I hope she can really learn something from this," Carter says, according to Hollyscoop. "They are going to make an example of you now, Lindsay, and you deserve it."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bieber has a filthy mouth?

SO HE MIGHT BE A NORMAL TEENAGER AFTER ALL Maybe the strain of being a teen sensation is getting to Justin Bieber. Reports are surfacing of some alarming behavior while on his promotional tour.

"Our floor manager was directing him to where he was about to perform and he turned around and said, 'Don't ever f--ing touch me again,'" Australian TV show host David Koch says during an interview with Mix FM in Sydney. "His audio guy said, 'Don't take offense, mate. He tells us that all the time.'" And while in England, Bieber reportedly gave an interviewer the middle finger and stormed out after being asked about his tattoo, according to Perez Hilton.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Bell student life just got better

Expand your social circle.

The Fab 10 Student plan from Bell gives you unlimited talking and texting to 10 lucky friends.[1] Plus, you also get unlimited evening and weekend local minutes starting at 6 p.m., 100 anytime local minutes with 50 additional bonus minutes and more. There's never been a better time to get on Canada's best network[2] and do more things in more places.

FAB 10 STUDENT PLAN[1] $30/MO.

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Edmonton 17551 100 Ave. 780 498-0069
Edmonton Abbottsfield Shoppers Mall 780 477-7795
Edmonton Capilano Mall 780 469-3880
Edmonton Northgate Centre 780 478-9815

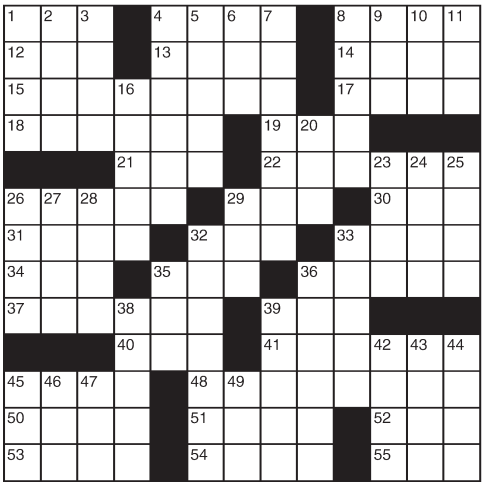
Offer ends August 3, 2010. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply outside your local area. Weeknights Mon-Thur, 6pm-1am; Weekends Fri 6pm-Mon 1am. Other monthly fees, e.g., 911 (Quebec $0.44), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustments apply; see your Service Agreement for details. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a 3-yr. term with valid student card. Applies to local calls and text messages made to and from ten designated numbers. (2) With compatible HSPA/HSPA+ devices. Based on comparison of national networks: (a) fastest network, according to tests of average upload and download speeds in large Canadian urban centres across Canada; (b) largest network, based on total square kms of coverage, and (c) tests for fewest dropped calls and cleanest reception in large Canadian urban centres across Canada; all on the shared HSPA/HSPA+ network available from Bell, vs. Rogers HSPA/HSPA+ network. Excludes roaming partners' HSPA and GSM/Edge coverage in certain parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Speed may vary due to topography, environmental conditions, device type and other factors. HSPA/HSPA+ not available in all areas. Bell.ca/network.

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Mostly sunny 6 C / 3 C
Saturday Mostly sunny 8 C / 2 C
Sunday Mostly sunny 11 C / 2 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Spring mo.
4 Polio vaccine pioneer
8 Part of a Superman costume
12 Shelter
13 Entreaty
14 Bloodhound's clue
15 Broadcasting
17 Addict
18 Make beloved
19 Fourth after 1-Across
21 Branch
22 Listening to cheesy music, maybe
26 Water pitchers
29 — out a living
30 Life story, briefly
31 Make small talk
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Locate
34 That woman
35 Aachen article
36 Gambling game
37 Using the Internet
39 Scull tool
40 Peculiar
41 Says
45 Sped off
48 Chased by the cops, maybe
50 Sitarist's music
51 Existed
52 Time of your life?
53 PC picture
54 Gotta have
55 Just out

DOWN

1 Shaving cream additive
2 Teller's partner
3 Sent back (Abbr.)
4 "Oops! ... I Did It Again" singer
5 More than just startle
6 Mainlander's memento
7 Singalong of a sort
8 Cold symptom
9 Billboards
10 "Ulalume" writer
11 Mess up
16 Core
20 French article
23 Last writes?
24 Scourge of serge
25 Extinct bird
26 Reverberate
27 Timely query?
28 Count counterpart
29 A really long time
32 Secure with a rope
33 Specialty
35 Conclude
36 Used a woodshop machine
38 Hawkeye
39 Bizarre
42 Verve
43 Anger
44 Old World duck
45 Calendar hdg.
46 Fond du —
47 Freudian concept
49 Born

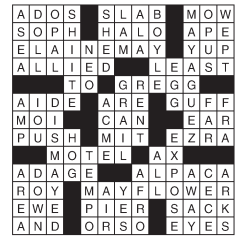
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

1				4				5
4	8						2	7
			5		7			
	9			3			6	8
		3				9		
5	2			9			4	
			3		9			
6	7						3	2
3				1				9

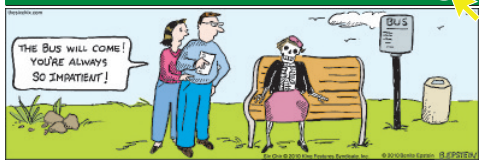
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



4	1	2	8	3	9	5	6	7
7	3	5	2	6	1	4	9	8
6	9	8	7	5	4	3	2	1
9	4	3	1	7	6	2	8	5
5	2	1	3	9	8	6	7	4
8	7	6	4	2	5	9	1	3
2	6	7	5	1	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	6	4	7	1	5	2
1	5	4	9	8	2	7	3	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Creole Skillet Dinner

INGREDIENTS:
4 cups chicken broth
2 1/2 cups uncooked long grain rice
1 cup chopped red onion
1 1/2 tsp minced garlic, divided
1 1/4 tsp chili powder
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground turmeric
1/4 tsp pepper
1 bay leaf
1 red pepper, julienned
1 green pepper, julienned
2 green onions, sliced
1 tsp minced fresh parsley
1/2 tsp basil
1/2 tsp thyme
1/4 tsp hot pepper sauce
2 tbsp butter
1 cup sliced mushrooms
1 tomato, chopped
1 cup peas
500 g boneless skinless chicken breasts, sliced
2 tbsp lemon juice
1/3 cup sliced almonds, toasted

METHOD:
1. In pot, bring broth, rice, onion, 1 tsp garlic, chili powder, salt, turmeric, pepper and bay leaf to boil. Cover; simmer 20 minutes or until rice is tender. Discard bay leaf.
2. In skillet, stir peppers, onions, parsley, basil, thyme, pepper sauce and remaining garlic in butter over medium-high heat 2 minutes. Add mushrooms; cook until peppers are crisp-tender. Add tomato and peas; heat through. Remove from heat. Add rice.
3. In another skillet, stir chicken in lemon juice over medium-high heat until chicken juices run clear. Toss with rice mixture; sprinkle with almonds.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't waste time asking yourself why certain events had to take place. What's done is done and the only thing that matters now is how you choose to react.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There are changes in the air, changes that you can profit from if you stay calm and keep your eye on your number one aim.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
What matters now is the big picture. What matters now is the grand design. You know that you are capable of so much more.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Something you are involved in and believe in has, until now, been more about talk than about action.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Something extraordinary and unexpected will happen today and if you are quick off the mark you can be the one who gains the most from it.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An upheaval of some kind will throw those around you into a tizzy today but you will stay calm and stay focused on your number one aim.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Friends and family may not approve of what you are doing but you are not about to let that hold you back.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
As Uranus moves into the work and wellbeing area of your chart today you will no doubt be thinking about ways you can improve your daily routine.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You are about to undergo a radical change in your outlook, the kind of change that happens only two or three times in a life span.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will be expected to give up something you have grown used to and fond of, but deep down you know it is time to move on.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Uranus, your ruler, moves into one of the more positive areas of the sky for you today and it won't be long before you feel the benefits.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
What you must remember today is that everything you do in your life, whether on a physical, mental or emotional level, affects everyone else.

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XLT
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DIESEL
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SES COUPE
21KM

$13,990

2009 SPORT TRAC
STK# 18472
XLT
13KM

$28,990

2009 SPORT TRAC
STK# 18471
LIMITED
23KM

$30,990

2009 MKZ
STK# 18494A
AWD
26KM

$29,990

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STK# 18467
XLT
46KM
8 PASSENGER

$19,990

2009 ESCAPE
STK# A136AA
AWD
XLT
50KM

$19,990

2008 F-350
STK# 18451
CREW
LARIAT
DIESEL
93KM

$33,990

2008 FUSION
STK# 84864
SEL
AWD
31KM

$19,990

2008 TOWN CAR
STK#
SIGNATURE
LTD
28KM

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2007 EXPEDITION
STK# 18450
MAX
EDDIE
BAUER
42KM

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2007 F-150
STK# R9944
S CREW
K/R
126KM

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SR
77KM

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2007 TOWN CAR
STK# R9889A
SIGNATURE
51KM

$20,990

2006 F-250
STK# 18429
S/CAB
XLT
81KM

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2006 F-350
STK# 18461
CREW
LARIAT
84KM

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2006 FREESTAR
STK# 18597
SEL
42KM

$18,990

2006 FUSION
STK# 84841
SEL
181KM

$6,990

2006 RANGER
STK# 18501
S/C
4WD
TREMOR
79KM

$14,990

2006 NAVIGATOR
STK# 18462
103KM

$28,990

2006 ZEPHYR
STK# 18507
44KM

$19,990

2010 MUSTANG
STK# 18569
GT
17KM

$32,990

2008 F-450
STK# R9967
CREW
K/R
98KM

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2006 MITSUBISHI LANCER
STK# 18449A
RALLIANT
63KM

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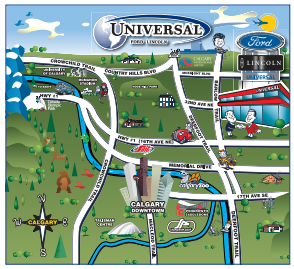

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